

## INSIDE TODAY

### WORLD NEWS

#### VATICAN SHAKEUP



Cardinal Marc Ouellet attends a news conference about his appointment by Pope Benedict XVI as Prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, Wednesday, June 30, 2010 in Quebec City, Canada. Ouellet, the 66-year-old archbishop of Quebec, replaces the retiring Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, and his new high-profile job ups his ranking as a possible papal contender.

*Read more on Page A7*

### SPORTS NEWS

#### GRAND PRIZE



In this May 13, 2010 file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James walks to the bench during a timeout late in the fourth quarter against the Boston Celtics in Game 6 in a second-round NBA basketball playoff series in Boston.

*Read more on Page A12*



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Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan takes her seat on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, June 30, 2010, prior to testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on her nomination.

*Associated Press*

## Confirmation all but sure, nominee ending hearings

JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Her confirmation all but assured, Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan neared the end of a final grueling day of Senate questioning Wednesday, fielding Republican challenges on abortion, gays in the military and other divisive issues while sidestepping Democrats' invitations to blast conservative decisions by the court she is hoping to join.

Barring an unexpected turn, President Barack Obama's nominee will become the fourth woman in the Supreme Court's history. It would be the first time that three of the court's nine justices were women.

Senators were expecting to finish their questioning of Kagan late Wednesday and hear from several outside witnesses Thursday. "Solicitor General Kagan will be confirmed," Sen. Patrick Leahy, a Democrat and the panel chairman, confidently declared during a break in the hearings.

Republicans, despairing of their inability to get Kagan to disclose her legal views or say anything that might threaten her confirmation, acknowledged as much.

"I assume she will be," said Sen. John Cornyn, a Republican.

Once the panel acts, the nomination goes to the full Senate.

Sen. Jeff Sessions, the top Republican on the panel, said Kagan's careful answers had made it difficult to determine whether she would be more like Roberts or Ruth Bader Ginsburg, referring to the conservative chief justice and to President Bill Clinton's nominee to the high court, generally regarded as a member of its liberal wing.

*Continued on Page 3*

## Senate confirms general as Afghan war commander



In this June 29, 2010 file photo, Gen. David Petraeus testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington. The Senate has unanimously confirmed Petraeus as the next commander of the Afghanistan war. The vote was 99-0.

*Associated Press*

*Read Next Page*

## Hurricane Alex threatens Mexico, Texas coasts



Sand blows across a tiger dam on a beach as the outer edges of Tropical Storm Alex approach the Louisiana coast in Grand Isle, La., Tuesday, June 29, 2010. The dam is expected to protect the island's beaches from oil that washes ashore from April's Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion and spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

As of 4 p.m. CDT Wednesday, Alex was 105 miles southeast of Brownsville and 80 miles from La Pesca, Mexico, moving west at about 13 mph.

*Associated Press*



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# Senate confirms general as Afghan war commander



Following his death at age 92 on Monday, the seat for Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., remains in place during the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, June 29, 2010, for Gen. David Petraeus. At right is committee chairman Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., at left is Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn.

ANNE FLAHERTY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate on Wednesday unanimously confirmed Gen. David Petraeus as the new commander of the Afghanistan war, and President Barack Obama swiftly issued a statement saying Petraeus had his “full

*Associated Press* confidence.”

Petraeus replaces Gen. Stanley McChrystal, whose three-decade career ended in disgrace because of inflammatory remarks he and his aides made to Rolling Stone magazine.

“Gen. Petraeus is a pivotal part of our effort to succeed in Afghanistan — and in

our broader effort to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al-Qaida — and he has my full confidence,” Obama said in a statement shortly after the Senate’s 99-0 vote.

Obama said the Senate’s quick action and Petraeus’ “unrivaled experience will ensure we do not miss a beat in our strategy to break the Taliban’s momentum and build Afghan capacity.”

As U.S. Central Command chief, Petraeus was McChrystal’s boss and already overseeing operations in Afghanistan. Petraeus’ replacement at Central Command has not been announced.

Petraeus won overwhelming praise from both Republicans and Democrats, despite their disagreements on the U.S. policy toward Afghanistan.

“For those who doubt the president’s desire and commitment to succeed in

Afghanistan, his nomination of Gen. Petraeus to run this war should cause them to think twice,” said Sen. John McCain, the top Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

“I know that Gen. Petraeus will do everything in his power to help us succeed in Afghanistan,” McCain added.

During his confirmation hearing on Tuesday, Petraeus left open the possibility of recommending that Obama delay his plans to start withdrawing troops from Afghanistan next summer.

“My sense is that the tough fighting will continue; indeed, it may get more intense in the next few months,” Petraeus told the Senate panel. “As we take away the enemy’s safe havens and reduce the enemy’s freedom of action, the insurgents will fight back.”

Petraeus also told senators that he may change the war’s battlefield rules, designed to limit civilian casualties and improve support for U.S. and NATO forces fighting the Taliban-led insurgency. Some troops and congressional Republicans complain they handicap U.S. forces.

When Petraeus arrives in Kabul he will be working again with Staffan de Mistura, who was the top U.N. envoy in Iraq from November 2007 until July 2009 and has been the top U.N. representative in Afghanistan since March. De Mistura praised Petraeus for his “substantial diplomatic and political sensitivities.”

“I’m sure Gen. Petraeus, as he did in Iraq, will make special efforts to reduce to the minimum the civilian casualties in Afghanistan,” de Mistura told reporters at U.N. headquarters in New York after briefing the Security Council. □



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## CONFIRMATION

*Continued from Front Page*

Kagan will replace Justice Jon Paul Stevens, a liberal voice on the divided court, who has retired.

Kagan has fenced deftly with her Republican critics, cracked jokes to ease the tension and won praise from Democrats as she moves closer to joining on the highest U.S. court, where justices often serve for life. She would be Obama second selection for the court. Last summer Sonia Sotomayor became the firsts Hispanic U.S. Supreme Court justice.

The court is one of the three branches of the U.S. government, designed in the Constitution with separate but equal powers. The court was established to decide on the constitutionality of laws and the way they have been interpreted by judges in lower courts.

That gives the high court huge power in deciding what laws enacted by Congress and their application by the president's executive branch are constitutional.

On one controversial matter, Kagan defended her efforts as a domestic policy aide to Clinton to scale back a Republican-proposed ban on a procedure opponents call partial-birth abortion — something she called “an

incredibly difficult issue.”

The former president, she said, “thought that this procedure should be banned in all cases except where the procedure was necessary to save the life or to prevent serious health consequences to the woman.” Sen. Orrin Hatch, a Republican, pressed Kagan about a note she wrote saying it would be “a disaster” if the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists issued a statement saying there was no case in which the procedure was necessary, and about her intervention to prevent the group from doing so.

She responded that the disaster would have been if the organization's statement didn't reflect its full view that in some instances, the procedure was “medically best.”

“This was all done in order to present ... both to the president and to Congress the most accurate understanding of what this important organization of doctors believed,” Kagan said.

Questioned by Sen. Tom Coburn, a Republican, on guns, Kagan said she accepts a recent ruling upholding individuals' rights to possess firearms, but she would not say whether she believed there was a “fundamental right” — meaning one that applies to states as well as the federal

government — to bear arms.

For the second day in a row, Kagan asserted she would be able to separate her personal and political views from her job as a justice.

“As a judge, you are on nobody's team. As a judge, you are an independent actor,” Kagan said.

She also defended her decision as solicitor general not to pursue two cases challenging the constitutionality of the military's ban on openly gay soldiers. Sessions pressed her on that decision, given “your widely publicized opposition to the ‘don't ask, don't tell’ law” and a statute meant to bolster it.

Kagan said that one of the cases Sessions cited had upheld the law's constitutionality. In the other, after consulting with Pentagon lawyers, she said she made a strategic decision to wait before taking action.

Kagan asserted that in both cases, she had acted “consistently with the responsibility which I agree with you very much that I have, to vigorously defend all statutes, including the statute that embodies the ‘don't ask, don't tell’ policy.”

Democrats used their time with Kagan largely to criticize a recent string of 5-4 decisions by the court, especially its January ruling that struck



Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., right, talks with the committee's ranking Republican Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., on Capitol Hill in Washington Wednesday, June 30, 2010, prior to the start of the continuing confirmation hearing for Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan.

*Associated Press*

down long-standing precedent to say corporations and labor unions were free to spend their own money on political activity.

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, a Democrat, said justices named by Republican presidents were “driving the law in a different direction by the narrowest possible margin.”

“I want to make it clear that

I'm not agreeing to your characterizations of the current court. I think that that would be inappropriate for me to do,” Kagan said. But she added that she believes the court should seek to make less far-reaching decisions to engender more consensus, which she called “a very good thing for the judicial process and for the country.” □

## 'Cross-border gunfire' raises Texas security fears

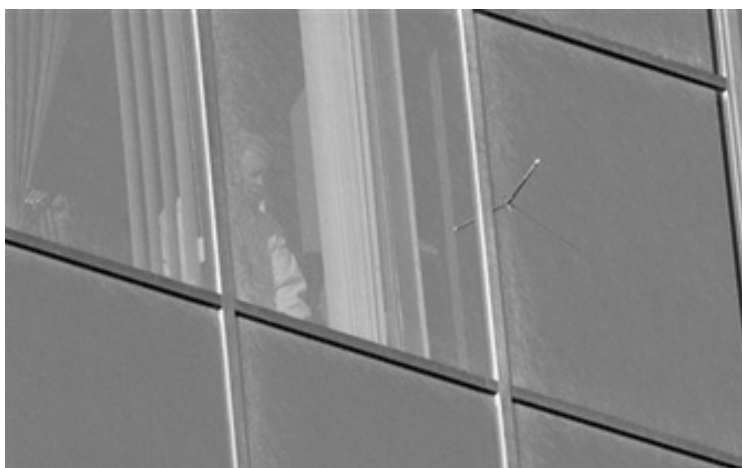
ALICIA A. CALDWELL

*Associated Press Writer*

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — A deadly shootout between gunmen and Mexican police that left seven bullet holes in El Paso City Hall has renewed calls for tighter border security, even as local authorities say little can be done to stop stray bullets from crossing the U.S.-Mexican border.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott wrote President Barack Obama on Wednesday to say Tuesday's “cross-border gunfire” was more proof that the state “is under constant assault from illegal activity threatening a porous border.”

Mexican authorities said the shootout began between police and armed suspects in Ciudad Juarez — a city plagued by drug violence just across the Rio Grande from El Paso — as officers were trying to



In this photo taken on Tuesday June 29, 2010, City Hall employees look at the window where a rod marks the place where a large-caliber bullet hole entered through the glass in El Paso, Texas. The bullet reportedly zipped through a ninth-floor window and an interior wall before hitting a picture frame and stopping. Police spokesman Darrel Petry says the shots apparently came from across the Rio Grande in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, which has been long wracked by bloody drug-related violence. El Paso City Hall is about a mile from the Juarez side of the river. Petry says City Hall doesn't appear to have been the target of the shots. City workers were still inside the hall at the time of the shootings, but no injuries were reported.

*Associated Press*

investigate a vehicle with no license plates in a border-area parking lot within view of El Paso City Hall. □

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# House of Representatives OKs major bank rules



House Financial Services Committee Chairman Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., center, flanked by Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., left, and Rep. Mary Jo Kilroy, D-Ohio, speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, June 30, 2010, after The House passed a massive overhaul of financial regulations.

*Associated Press*

JIM KUHNHENN

Associated Press Writer  
 WASHINGTON (AP)

— Nearly two years after a Wall Street meltdown left the economy reeling, the House of Representatives on Wednesday passed a massive overhaul of financial regulations that would extend the government's reach from storefront thrifts to the executive suites of

Manhattan.

The Senate was forced to delay to mid-July its vote on the compromise bill, which denied President Barack Obama a victory before the U.S. Independence Day holiday on July 4. Democrats struggled to secure the votes of a handful of Republican senators even after meeting their demands and backing

down on a \$19 billion tax on big banks and hedge funds. Legislation to repair the systemic problems that led to the U.S. economic meltdown is among Obama's major goals.

The legislation, swelling to more than 2,000 pages, would rewrite the nation's regulatory books and reach from storefront thrifts to the high-finance penthouses of New York City. Simple supermarket purchases and exotic trades in derivatives would be subject to new laws. The entire financial system would be placed on a risk watch in hopes of thwarting the next threat.

The 237-192 House vote broke along party lines, following a pattern set last December when no Republicans voted for the House version of the bill. The new legislation combines the House bill with one passed by the Senate last month.

"Never again, never again should Wall Street greed bring such suffering to our country," declared House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer.

Republicans portrayed the

bill as a vast overreach of government power that would do little to prevent future bailouts of failing financial institutions. They complained that it failed to place tighter restrictions on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the hybrid government-private mortgage giants forced into huge federal bailouts after their questionable lending helped trigger meltdowns in housing and the financial system.

"This legislation is a clear attack on capital formation in America," said Rep. Eric Cantor, the second-ranking Republican leader in the House. "It purports to prevent the next financial crisis, but it does so by vastly expanding the power of the same regulators who failed to stop the last one."

As predictable as the House vote may have been, the Senate was a study in unpredictability.

House and Senate negotiators were forced to reconvene Tuesday to remove a \$19 billion tax on large banks and hedge funds, hoping to overcome objections from

Sens. Scott Brown, Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe, all Republicans who voted for the Senate version last month.

Democrats inserted the tax late last week as they assembled a combined House-Senate bill, catching big banks by surprise. Brown was the first to complain and threatened to vote against the bill if the tax remained in the final measure.

Desperate to hold at least 60 votes to beat back procedural blockades, House Financial Services Committee Chairman Barney Frank, Senate Banking Committee Chairman Chris Dodd and Obama administration officials scrambled to drop the tax and devise another means of financing the bill's cost.

In the end, House and Senate negotiators reconvened in an extraordinary session Tuesday and, voting along party lines, agreed to pay for the bill with \$11 billion generated by ending the unpopular Troubled Asset Relief Program — the \$700 billion bank bailout created by Republican President George W. Bush's administration in the fall of 2008 at the height of the financial scare.

They also agreed to increase premium rates paid by commercial banks to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. to insure bank deposits. The increase would not affect banks with assets under \$10 billion.

On Wednesday, Collins issued a statement saying she was now inclined to vote for the bill.

Brown said he needed Congress' weeklong July 4 recess to examine details of the bill and remained uncommitted. He credited Dodd for "thinking outside the box" in finding an alternative. □



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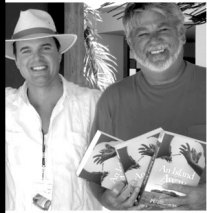
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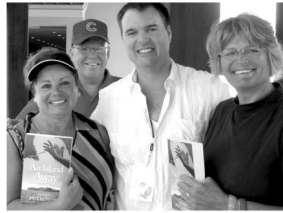
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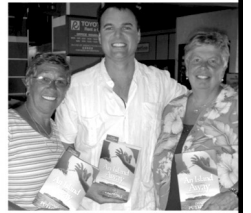
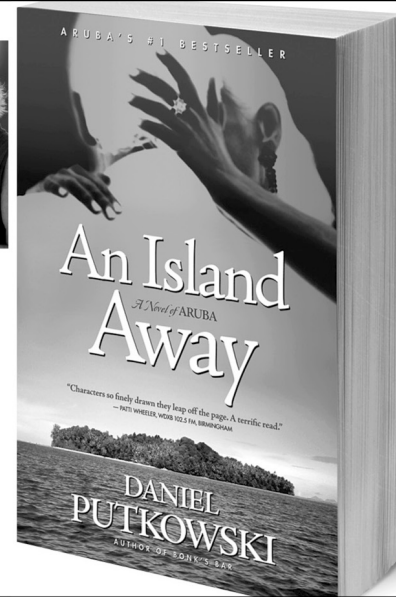
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# Hurricane Alex threatens Mexico, Texas coasts

CHRIS SHERMAN  
Associated Press Writers

MATAMOROS, Mexico (AP) — The first Atlantic hurricane of the year plowed ahead toward a collision with the Mexican Gulf coast and south Texas on Wednesday, whipping up high waves that frustrated oil-spill cleanup efforts and delivering tar balls and globs of crude onto already soiled beaches.

Hurricane Alex flooded roads and forced thousands of people to evacuate fishing villages as it bore down on the northeastern Mexican coast.

Braving horizontal sheets of rain, Mexican marines went door-to-door in the small fishing community of Playa Bagdad, trying to evacuate villagers from rickety wooden shacks.

At least 50 people were easily persuaded to get aboard buses to shelters, but holdouts could be seen peeking through windows. One man rebuffed the navy's offer and quickly shut his plywood door.

"We're worried it's going to come hard," said Macedonia Villegas as she and her son readied their house before leaving with the marines. Surf pounded the nearby shore, and a lagoon swelled behind her home.

Emergency-preparedness workers also planned to evacuate 2,500 people from coastal areas east of Matamoros, said Civil Protection Director Saul Hernandez, who added that he was most concerned about 13,000 families in low-lying areas where there are few public utilities or city services.

The storm was far from the Gulf oil spill, but cleanup vessels were sidelined by the hurricane's ripple effects. Six-foot waves churned up by the hurricane splattered beaches in Louisiana, Alabama and Florida with oil and tar balls.

Alex, which had winds of 90 mph, was the first June hurricane in the Atlantic

since 1995, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida. Bands of heavy rains quickly inundated roads in Matamoros, a worrisome sign with Alex expected to dump as much as 12 inches of rain in the region, with perhaps 20 inches in isolated areas.

The hurricane could become a Category 2 storm with winds of 96 mph before slamming into the coastline Wednesday evening or early Thursday about 100 miles south of Matamoros and Brownsville, Texas, the Hurricane Center said. The flat, marshy region is prone to flooding.

Many in the border city braved the growing rains: Commuters struggled to get to work, pedestrians crossed the bridge connecting Matamoros and Brownsville and newspaper hawkers manned the less-flooded intersections. One flooded stretch of road nearly kept Mari Ponce from getting to her job at the Mundo Shelter, which was preparing for 800 people evacuated from fishing communities along the coast.

"It's not going to hit us (directly), but Matamoros is a place that really floods," she said.

Government workers stuck duct tape in X's across the windows of the immigration office at the main downtown bridge in Matamoros on Tuesday. Trucks cruised slowly down residential streets carrying large jugs of drinking water and cars packed supermarket parking lots.

Flash floods also forced hundreds of evacuations in the southern Mexican states of Oaxaca and Guerrero, but hurricane specialist Eric Blake said those rains were only indirectly related to Alex and possibly the residual effects of Hurricane Darby, which has dissipated in the Pacific.

Three people, including a 5-year-old child, were killed when heavy rains and winds brought down a wall over



Dennis Barrett paddles his kayak down a flooded Padre Boulevard as the early effects of Hurricane Alex are felt along the Texas coast, Wednesday, June 30, 2010 in South Padre Island, Texas.

Associated Press

their wooden house in Acapulco, state Civil Protection authorities said.

Texas also watched Alex's outer bands warily. Alex was expected to bring torrential rains to a Rio Grande delta region that is ill suited — economically and geographically — to handle it.

Texas residents had been preparing for the storm for days, readying their homes and businesses and stocking up on household essentials. But concerns eased as the storm headed farther south toward Mexico.

Cameron County Judge Carlos Cascos said Brownsville and surrounding areas had "dodged a potentially violent storm," though flooding was still a worry. At least 70 residents had already taken shelter at a Brownsville high school.

Engineers were watching the levees in south Texas as the storm approached the area.

On nearby South Padre Island, the mood was less anxious. Although hotels and restaurants looked deserted compared to the crush of vacationers who normally pack the popular vacation spot in the summer, those who stuck around didn't size up Alex as much of a threat.

One couple renewed their wedding vows on the beach as a few campers

reluctantly moved their trailers out of the park hours before a mandatory evacuation deadline.

"It's June. It's too soon for hurricanes," said Gloria Santos, of Edinburgh, after hitching her trailer back to her truck.

Jerry Wilson, 50, also didn't think much of Alex, though he struggled in the fierce gusts to hoist a cloth-tipped pole to clean high-mounted cameras across the island that will let Internet viewers watch Alex's arrival live online.

"We got two generators and lots of guns and ammo, so we're not worried about it," Wilson said.

Scientists in Texas were also monitoring a buoy system that records the Gulf's water directions and velocity every half-hour. That information will determine where the oil could spread, should it approach Texas as tar balls on the beach, said Texas land commissioner Jerry Patterson.

Oil rigs and platforms in the path of the storm's outer bands were evacuated, and President Barack Obama issued a pre-emptive federal disaster declaration for southern Texas counties late Tuesday.

The three oil rigs and 28 platforms evacuated are not part of the Gulf oil spill response. □



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## Cypriot police say Russian spying suspect vanished



A cameraman films the door of the hotel room believed used by Christopher Robert Metsos, the 11th suspect in an alleged Russian spy ring assigned to infiltrate American society, in the southern coastal town of Larnaca, Cyprus, Wednesday, June 30, 2010. Metsos, a Canadian citizen, was arrested at Larnaca airport on June 29 while trying to fly to Budapest, Hungary, Cyprus police said. He was later released on bail.

*Associated Press*



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**MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS**  
Associated Press Writer

LARNACA, Cyprus (AP) — Cypriot police began searching late Wednesday for an alleged Russian spy wanted in the United States who vanished after being released on bail a day earlier in the Mediterranean island nation. Police spokesman Michalis Katsounotos said Christopher Robert Metsos, 54, who says he is Canadian, failed to report to police in the southern coastal town of Larnaca between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. local time Wednesday according to the terms of release imposed on him Tuesday by a Cypriot court.

Katsounotos said a search failed to locate Metsos and authorities have begun the procedures to issue a warrant for his arrest for breaching the terms of his release.

Andreas Pastellides, one of two lawyers representing Metsos in Cyprus, told the Associated Press that they'd had no contact with their client since Tuesday afternoon.

Pastellides said Metsos did not show up for a meeting he was supposed to have Wednesday afternoon in Larnaca with Pastellides' partner, Michalis Papathanasiou.

Metsos' quick disappearance raised questions about why Cypriot authorities released

him on bail.

"I'm truly surprised that the court issued no such detention order against an individual who is alleged to be a spy," said Ionas Nicolaou, member of parliament for the opposition Disy party and chairman of parliament's Legal Affairs Committee. "By virtue of the fact that this individual was suspected of being a spy, I don't think his conditional release was justified. Of course, I can't know exactly what facts or arguments were presented before the court for that decision to be taken." But Pastellides defended the bail request.

"We objected to our client's detention because he did not wish to be detained until his extradition," Pastellides said. "Yes, it was a serious case, but God forbid if someone remains detained for a month until extradition proceedings can begin."

Pastellides said he was not surprised that the judge freed Metsos, saying that his partner Papathanasiou, who represented Metsos in court, convinced the judge his detention wasn't necessary by pointing out Metsos' willingness to surrender his travel documents, appear once a day at a local police station and pay bail of about €26,500 (\$32,500).

Dean Boyd, spokesman for the U.S. Justice Department's national security division, said he was aware of the media reports regarding Metsos, but is "going to have to defer to Cyprus authorities for comment."

A spokesman at FBI headquarters in Washington, William Carter, said the bureau is aware of press reports on the Metsos matter "and we are not commenting at this time."

Metsos had been staying at a hotel in Larnaca.

Metsos could have slipped into the Turkish Cypriot north of the island, which is recognized by no country other than Turkey and has no formal extradition treaties with other countries. The north is linked to Turkey by an airport and ferry services. There are no direct air links to any other country other than Turkey, but a ferry service also runs between the northern port of Famagusta and Latakia, Syria.

The north has had a reputation for acting as a refuge for Britons fleeing justice in their homeland. Crossings between the north and south of the island were forbidden until 2003, when authorities on both sides and relaxed restrictions. Since 2003, there have been hundreds of thousands of crossings from both sides across six crossing points.

Cyprus was split into an internationally recognized Greek Cypriot south and a breakaway Turkish Cypriot north in 1974 when Turkey invaded in response to a short-lived coup by supporters of union with Greece. □



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# Pope shuffles Vatican bureaucracy before vacation



In this Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009 file photo, Monsignor Rino Fisichella, who heads the Pontifical Academy for Life, gestures during a press conference at the Vatican press room. Preoccupied for months by the clerical sex abuse scandal, the Pope on Wednesday, June 30, 2010, shuffled the Vatican bureaucracy before heading off on vacation. His most significant appointment: the head of a new office designed to fight secularism in the West. Pope Benedict XVI tapped a trusted Italian, Monsignor Rino Fisichella, to head the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization, a new Vatican department designed to reinvigorate Christianity in the parts of the world where it is falling by the wayside.

*Associated Press*

**NICOLE WINFIELD**  
Associated Press Writer  
VATICAN CITY (AP) — Preoccupied for months by the clerical sex abuse scandal, the pope on Wednesday shuffled the Vatican bureaucracy before heading off on vacation. His most significant appointment: the head of a new office designed to fight secularism in the West.

Pope Benedict XVI tapped

a trusted Italian, Monsignor Rino Fisichella, to head the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization, a new Vatican department designed to reinvigorate Christianity in the parts of the world where it is falling by the wayside.

Benedict has made rekindling the faith in Europe a priority of his papacy, and the appointment of Fisichella served as a tacit

acknowledgment that his efforts to date needed more focus and heft.

Also Wednesday, Benedict named Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet to head the powerful Congregation for Bishops, which vets bishops nominations worldwide. Ouellet, the 66-year-old archbishop of Quebec, replaces the retiring Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, and his new high-profile job ups his ranking as a possible papal contender.

Benedict also moved his New York-based U.N. ambassador to Poland to serve as papal nuncio and named a new head of the Vatican's bioethics advisory board, the Pontifical Academy for Life.

The long-rumored appointments were announced as the pope wraps up key Vatican business before going on vacation for the rest of the summer at the papal retreat in Castel Gandolfo, in the hills south of Rome.

Benedict announced the creation of the new evangelization office earlier this week, saying it would promote Christianity in countries where the church has long existed "but which are living a progressive secularization of society and a sort of 'eclipse of the sense of God.'"

Benedict has been particularly concerned about Europe's increasing secularization and has focused his foreign trips on the continent as a result. His 2010 travel itinerary, for example, lists Malta, Cyprus, Portugal, Britain and Spain.

"The pope knows this issue well from his long experience as a teacher and as an acute observer of historic and cultural moments," Fisichella was quoted as saying by the ANSA news agency. "It's evident that he sees at this moment a need to bring forward again the message of Jesus Christ so that people today can reinvigorate their faith." The Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, said Wednesday that re-evangelizing the West was "central" to Benedict's concerns as pope.

"Dating from his years as a young theologian, the pope had before his eyes the image of a spiritual desert of a world which ... has become increasingly secularized in recent centuries," the paper's editor in chief, Giovanni Maria Vian, wrote in a front-page editorial.

Fisichella is currently president of the Pontifical Academy for Life and is rector of the Pontifical Lateran University; Benedict filled Fisichella's posts at those institutions

Wednesday as well.

Other positions are expected to be announced soon, including a new head of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Christian Unity, the Vatican office that oversees relations with other Christians and Jews. Italian media have said its current head, the retiring Cardinal Walter Kasper, will be replaced by Swiss Bishop Kurt Koch of Basel.

In addition, the pope is expected to name the papal delegate who will take over the Legionaries of Christ, the scandal-plagued conservative order. After years of denials, the order admitted last year that its founder, the Rev. Marciel Maciel, had sexually abused seminarians and had fathered a child. It now says he had at least three children. Even as allegations against Maciel intensified, the Legionaries had long been favored by Pope John Paul II for its success in bringing in new vocations.

On Wednesday, 26 new Legionaries were ordained in Rome, a third of the estimated 60 Legion seminarians who will be ordained around the globe this summer — an indication that the scandal hasn't completely eroded the order's ability to attract new men for the priesthood. □



This is a Monday June 15, 2009 file photo of Iceland's Prime Minister Johanna Sigurdardottir as she speaks at a press conference, during the Nordic Prime Minister's Summit meeting in Egilssataoir, Iceland. Iceland's prime minister Johanna Sigurdardottir has married her partner under a new law legalizing same-sex marriage in the country. One of her advisers, Hrunnar B. Arnarsson, said Monday June 28, 2010 that the prime minister and writer Jonina Leosdottir were officially married Sunday, the day the law came into force.

*Associated Press*

**LOUISE NORDSTROM**  
Associated Press Writer  
STOCKHOLM (AP) — Iceland's prime minister made

history last week when she wed her longtime girlfriend, becoming the world's first head of government to enter a

## Icelandic leader in milestone gay marriage

gay marriage.

But fellow Nordic nations hardly noticed when 67-year-old Johanna Sigurdardottir tied the knot with her longtime partner — a milestone that would still, despite advances in gay rights, be all but inconceivable elsewhere.

Scandinavia has had a long tradition of tolerance — and cross-dressing lawmakers and gay bishops have become part of the landscape.

"There is some kind of passion for social justice here," respected cross-dressing Swedish lawmaker Fredrick Federley said. "That everybody should be treated the same."

Gay rights activists said Europe in general has a better record on accepting gays at the highest levels of government than the United States.

"In the current climate of U.S. public opinion it is impossible to imagine a U.S. president who is openly gay and who marries their longtime partner," said Peter Tatchell, spokesman for the London-based gay human rights group Outrage.

"In Europe the reaction is completely different — people just don't care."

Although no openly gay American has made a potentially winning run for president, gay men and lesbians have made significant advances in recent years in winning other elected offices in the United States, often while being open about their same-sex partners.

In Europe, the situation varies. Several top-level politicians are openly gay, including Sweden's Environment Minister Andreas Carlgren

and Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoe, considered a possible contender for the 2012 presidential elections. But a gay head of government would be impossible in strong Catholic nations.

"We will never see a gay prime minister in Italy. The power of the Catholic Church is too strong," said Giuseppina Massallo, 60, from Sicily who lives in Rome. "We have institutions that make us believe that ... being homosexual is simply not the right thing to do."

The 32-year-old Federley occasionally swaps his parliamentary suit and tie for heavy makeup and revealing dresses as drag queen Ursula. Federley has been openly gay for nine years and his sexual identity has never been an issue in politics. □



# Benigno Aquino III sworn in as Philippine leader

TERESA CEROJANO

Associated Press Writer

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— Benigno Aquino III, sworn in Wednesday as the Philippines' 15th president, promised to prosecute the corrupt and banish poverty as he urged Filipinos to help him in a job he likened to a biblical burden.

The son of two Philippine democracy icons, Aquino, 50, succeeds Gloria Macapagal Arroyo whose stormy nine-rule was rocked by four failed coup attempts and allegations of corruption, vote-rigging and human rights abuses, which she denied.

Some 500,000 attended Aquino's oath-taking at a seaside park in the capital Manila, police said. Aquino aimed his speech at the many Filipinos exasperated at the Southeast Asian country's enduring problems, that also include decadeslong Islamic and communist insurgencies. "This day marks the end of a leadership that has long been insensitive to the suffering of the people ... and this is the beginning of my own Calvary," Aquino said, referring to Christ's



**President Benigno Aquino III, center, takes his oath before Supreme Court Associate Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales as the Philippines' 15th President during inaugural ceremony Wednesday June 30, 2010 in Manila, Philippines. Aquino, the only son of Philippine democracy icons, the late President Corazon Aquino and assassinated opposition leader Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., won by a landslide in the May 10 automated presidential elections. At right holding the Holy Bible is Jesuit priest Father Catalino Arevalo.**

crucifixion. "But if many of us bear the cross, we will lift it, no matter how heavy."

Aquino, called "Noy" by his supporters, was a low-key legislator until he swept to a landslide win in May 10 elections — buoyed by his illustrious family name, his anti-corruption platform and Filipinos' longing for moral and political renewal.

"He signifies change and hope," said businesswoman Marivic Roy, who joined the crowds at the inauguration, accompanied by her husband and two sons. "That's why people gravitate toward him. We feel there is hope for this country."

Aquino's parents were revered for their opposition to the late dictator Ferdinand

Marcos, who was ousted by a 1986 "people power" revolt — a defining moment in the Philippines' political history. Marcos, who had ruled for two decades, was succeeded by Aquino's popular mother, Corazon Aquino. She died last year, prompting a mass outpouring of sympathy that turned into a groundswell of support for her son.

*Associated Press*

Diplomats from more than 80 countries and two former Philippine presidents — Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada — attended Wednesday's ceremonies.

East Timor President Jose Ramos Horta, a longtime supporter of the Aquino family, was among the foreign dignitaries.

The nationally televised event resembled a grand concert with celebrity singers and an orchestra belting out patriotic music and folk songs. Yellow confetti — the signature color of Corazon Aquino in the people power uprising — rained from two helicopters. Vice President Jejomar Binay was sworn in before Aquino took his oath.

In his speech, Aquino gave lofty pledges to provide jobs, health care, schools and more infrastructure to help farmers and businessmen. He also touched on common problems that highlight the divide between elite families and the third of the 90 million population who live on a dollar a day.

Aquino drew wide applause when he said he has also suffered like ordinary Filipinos stuck in heavy traffic as siren-blaring convoys carrying powerful people breezed by. "No more wang-wang," he said, using the local term for blaring sirens.

He promised to fight corruption, particularly in the notoriously graft-ridden bureaus of customs and internal revenues, and pledged a new era of good governance, reforms and a bureaucracy sensitive to the needs of ordinary citizens.

His new Cabinet unveiled Tuesday has mostly Aquino allies and defectors from Arroyo's government. Aquino said he would immediately form an independent "Truth Commission" to investigate corruption allegations against Arroyo and other scandals during her presidency.

"I can forgive those who did me wrong, but I have no right to forgive those who abused our people," said Aquino, who with his mother had previously joined street protests calling on Arroyo to resign. □



**Passengers squeeze onto a bus during a subway strike in Madrid Wednesday June 30, 2010. Madrid is enduring a second day without a subway service as workers strike over pay cuts ordered as part of countrywide austerity plans, while city officials said morning rush hour traffic on Wednesday was a third heavier than usual, and Union spokesman Vicente Rodriguez said Tuesday night he cannot say when the strike will end.**

*Associated Press*

MADRID (AP) — Spain's capital endured a second day without subway service Wednesday, with big traffic jams forming as people scrambled to find alternative transport, as workers went on strike over pay cuts that are part of government austerity plans.

No negotiations were planned and workers voted to continue the walkout for two more days, although they vowed to comply with a legal obligation to run half the trains scheduled.

Trains will operate as normal over the weekend, then there will

## Strike halts Madrid subway again

be another vote Monday on how to proceed, unions said.

The partial service promised for Thursday and Friday means the subway line running to and from Madrid's busy Barajas airport will be back in service just as the summer vacation season begins on earnest on July 1.

Morning rush hour traffic was a third heavier than usual as people took to cars and buses, city officials said. But they said the gridlock was not as bad as the first day of the strike, when unions announced unexpectedly that they were reneging on an obligation to run 50 percent of scheduled trains.

The network carries more than two million travelers a day.

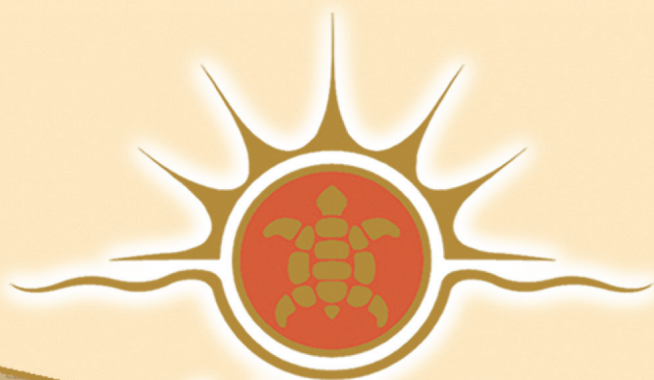
Worker are protesting a 5 percent pay cut ordered by the Madrid regional government, which oversees the metro system.

The regional government tried and failed Tuesday evening to get the line to the airport up and running. It said there were drivers available to man the trains, but it decided in the end to hold off because it could not guarantee the line would stay open Wednesday.

Madrid mayor Alberto Ruiz Gallardon criticized unions for not living up to a binding agreement to provide at least 50 percent service. "They do not have the right to do what they are doing to all the people of Madrid. I think we are in an emergency situation now in Madrid," he told Cadena Ser radio.

The strike actually began Monday, but that day union honored the minimum services rule. □





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## Preval rejects U.S. advice on presidential election

JONATHAN M. KATZ

Associated Press Writer

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haiti's president on Wednesday rejected U.S. Senate recommendations on holding an election for his successor, brushing off criticism that the current process will leave the shattered country without a credible leader.

A report issued this month by Sen. Richard Lugar, the ranking Republican on the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, "strongly encourages" Haiti to let its international partners help restructure the eight-member Provisional Electoral Council, which has been accused of corruption.

The report also recommends ensuring the participation of the key opposition party of ousted former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, which was blocked from participating in 2009 legislative contests because of a dispute over rival candidate lists.

On Tuesday, President Rene Preval fulfilled one recommendation of the report by issuing a signed decree setting election day for Nov. 28.

But speaking at a news conference in an open-air

gazebo alongside the broken palace a day later, Preval told reporters he had no intention of complying with the rest, including changing the election body, known as the CEP.

"I'm not doing the CEP with international partners. I'm doing the CEP with national partners," Preval said. "The senator's proposition is inadmissible."

Seeking to show the council was not "hand-picked," as he said in English, Preval handed out copies of nomination letters for the panel's members submitted by various national and religious organizations, including the National Council of Political Parties, Roman Catholic Church and National Confederation of Haitian Vodou.

He also defended the prohibition on the exiled Aristide's Fanmi Lavalas party in last year's elections, a ban that came after rival factions of the party submitted competing lists of candidates.

"International donors need to look for an accord with the CEP and the political parties and the factions of Fanmi Lavalas," Preval said. "We are giving (the parties) the

support that they need, and the factions need to figure it out (for themselves)."

Preval did not discuss the forced resignation of an electoral council member accused of stealing a staffer's pay or opponents' allegations that the council gave special privileges to the president's newly formed Unity Party ahead of planned Feb. 28 legislative elections, which were postponed because of the Jan. 12 earthquake that devastated the capital.

He also declined to answer questions about another U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee report that criticizes Haiti's earthquake recovery, saying he would address that issue at a news conference on reconstruction next week.

Elections have never been easy in Haiti, a country whose founding president crowned himself emperor. It took 186 years to hold what the international community considered a democratic election in 1990, which was then closely followed by a coup d'etat.

Preval, in fact, is the only Haitian ever to be elected president, serve a full term and hand off power to an elected successor. Unable



Haiti's President Rene Preval walks along a garden of the National Palace after a press conference in Port-au-Prince, Wednesday, June 30, 2010. Preval set Nov. 28 as the date voters will choose his successor, as leader of the earthquake-shattered Caribbean nation.

Associated Press

to run for re-election in the November contest, he pledged to relinquish power again as he did in the 1990s — after protesters alleged earlier this year that he was dragging his feet on holding presidential the election.

Doing so will require significant help. The electoral council's headquarters were destroyed and its records lost in the quake, while millions of voters were either killed, made homeless or displaced. Its new headquarters is a former Gold's Gym seized by drug agents.

The election will also be a cost burden for this

grindingly poor Caribbean nation: \$29 million according to electoral officials at the news conference with Preval, \$38 million according to the U.S. Senate report.

The Organization of American States and United Nations have pledged support. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a statement Wednesday praising the decree setting the election date and pledged the help of U.N. peacekeepers and advisers in preparing and supporting the ballot. Ban urged member states to quickly provide the money needed to run the vote. □





After buying tickets for the two Twilight series movies about 1 1/2 months ago, Alice Griffin, 23, of Las Cruces becomes excited Tuesday, June 29, 2010, at the Cineport 10 in Las Cruces, N.M., upon realizing she will be seeing the third movie, 'The Twilight Saga: Eclipse,' premiering at midnight. 'The love story's amazing; absolutely breathtaking; nothing compares,' she said as to why she arrived at 3 p.m. to wait in line. The theater was having a special triple feature by showing first two movies in the Twilight series before the premiere of the third Twilight movie.

(AP Photo/Las Cruces Sun-News, Norm Dettlaff)

## "The Twilight Saga" has rung up another record midnight hour.

LOS ANGELES – "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse" took in more than \$30 million from midnight screenings Wednesday, according to distributor Summit Entertainment.

That surpassed the previous midnight record of \$26.3 million set on opening day last November by its predecessor, "The Twilight Saga: New Moon."

Summit was still counting the numbers and was not expected to have a final overnight number until Thursday. But Summit reported the figure was likely to come in significantly higher than \$30 million.

The huge start for "Eclipse" puts the latest chapter in the vampire-romance series on track for one of the biggest opening days ever. "New Moon" also holds that record, taking in \$72.7 million in its first day. The new midnight record is even more impressive considering "Eclipse" managed it in the middle of the week. "New Moon" opened on Friday, typically a busier day at theaters. Fans lined up Tuesday hours ahead of the first midnight show times for "Eclipse," which continues the story of brooding teen Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) and her love triangle with vampire Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) and werewolf Jacob Black (Taylor Lautner). □

## Franklin, Rice team up for Philly musical benefit

PHILADELPHIA – Aretha Franklin will take the stage next month with an accomplished accompanist more famous for diplomacy: Condoleezza Rice.

The pair will play at Philadelphia's Mann Center for the Performing Arts on July 27 in show that will feature Franklin's music and classical composers.

The Mann Center's website says former Secretary of State Rice will accompany Franklin on piano for "Say A Little Prayer," "Natural Woman," selections from Mozart and more.

Franklin says in a statement that "Rice is a consummate classical pianist" and that since I sing the arias, I thought that we could do something, a bipartisan effort for our favorite charities."

The venue says the performance is a benefit for programs that support inner city children and its own education initiatives.



Aretha Franklin arrives at the 61st annual Tony Awards in New York, Sunday, June 13, 2010.

(AP Photo/Peter Kramer)

## Steve Carell "resigning" from "The Office" next year

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) – Actor Steve Carell is tendering his resignation as the egotistical boss Michael Scott of "The Office", and leaving the hit TV comedy show next year.

Carell told Us Magazine that he would be leaving paper company Dunder Mifflin at the end of the upcoming TV season, in May 2011.

"Yes, it will be my last," Carell, 47, told UsMagazine.com while promoting his movie "Despicable Me".

"It's the last (season) on my contract, and I want to honor my contract."

Carell, who won a Golden Globe award for his role, said he wanted to spend more time with his wife and two young children.

Carell began playing Michael Scott in 2005 when the U.S. version of the hit British

mockumentary created by Ricky Gervais was launched on NBC.

NBC had no comment on Carell's remarks.

Carell's departure may not mean the end of "The Office" however. NBC executives told reporters in May that the network regarded the show as an ensemble piece and that producers were prepared for a possible departure by Carell.

The actor told Us Magazine he would be sad to leave the comedy series. "These are some of my best friends in the world! But it will be good -- it will be good for everybody," he said.

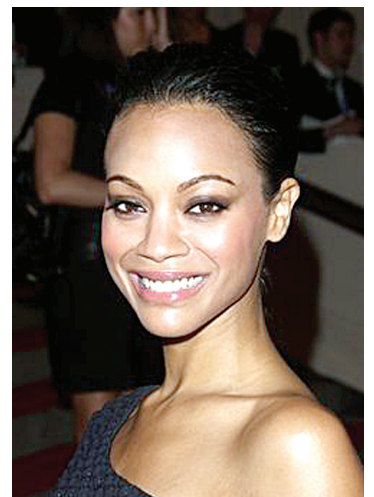
"The Office" has been one of NBC's biggest critical hits, winning an Emmy for best comedy series, and a Screen Actors Guild Award for its ensemble cast. The series has also been sold widely overseas. □

## 'Avatar' star Zoe Saldana is engaged

LOS ANGELES – Zoe Saldana is capping off a string of hit films with another big engagement — to her longtime boyfriend.

A spokesman for the 32-year-old actress says she is engaged to marry actor Keith Britton. Publicist Gary Mantoosh offered no other details.

Saldana has become a familiar face in film recently, with starring roles in "Star Trek" and "Avatar." The lithe brunette also appears in the action flick "The Losers," the comedy "Death at a Funeral" and the forthcoming "Takers." □



FILE - In this May 3, 2010 file photo, Zoe Saldana arrives to the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute gala in New York.

(AP Photo/Peter Krame, filer)

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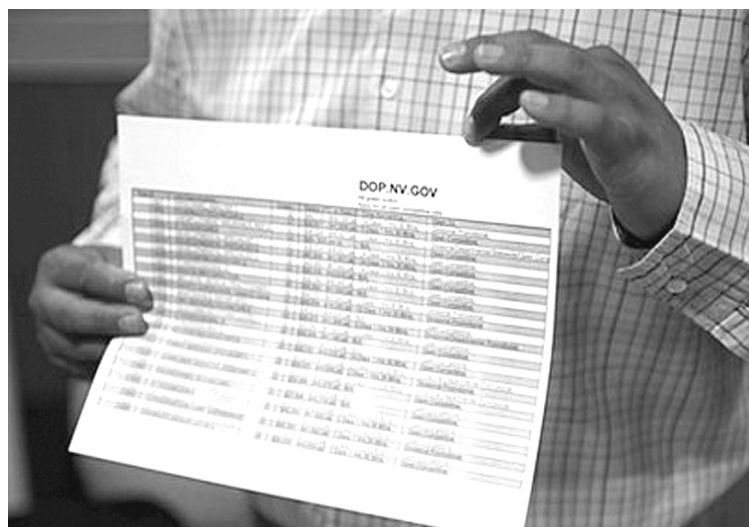
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## BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY



In this June 28, 2010 photo, Jose Villa, of the Nevada Dept. of Public Safety, displays a list of jobs available at a National Career Fair in San Francisco. Unemployment rates in roughly two-thirds of the nation's largest metropolitan areas dipped in May as the gradual economic recovery spurred some hiring.

(AP Photo/Eric Risberg)

## Jobless rates drop in two-thirds of metro areas

By JEANNINE AVERSA,  
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Unemployment rates in roughly two-thirds of the nation's largest metropolitan areas dipped in May as the gradual economic recovery spurred some hiring.

An analysis of Labor Department data released Wednesday found that jobless rates dropped in 237 of 382 areas in May from April. It rose in 118 areas and was flat in 27.

The figures aren't adjusted to account for seasonal trends, such as lifeguards hired during the summer or retail clerks let go after the holiday shopping season. So they tend to be volatile from month to month.

Despite some improvements on both the local and national employment fronts, millions of out-of-work Americans face a difficult time finding work. Roughly 134 metro areas had double-digit unemployment rates in May.

El Centro, Calif., laid claim to the highest unemployment rate in the country — 27.5 percent. Unemployment there is notoriously high because of many seasonal farm workers without jobs.

Metro areas in California, Florida and Arizona and Nevada, states hit hardest by the housing bust, also were among those suffering double-digit unemployment. So were industrial rust-belt areas, such as in Michigan's metro areas of Flint (14.7 percent) and Detroit-Warren-Livonia (13.7 percent), and Kokomo, Ind. (12.0 percent) as well as manufacturing hubs like Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton (13.0 percent) in North Carolina.

By contrast, Bismarck, N.D., had the lowest unemployment rate in the country at 3.1 percent. Other metro areas in North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska reported low rates. Higher prices for agricultural commodities has bolstered the upper Plains states. In addition, because many of those states didn't experience the housing boom, they escaped the jarring bust.

Meanwhile, 36 metro areas reported unemployment rates at or below 6 percent, a figure that is consistent with healthy employment conditions on a national scale. The metro area of Washington, D.C. and Arlington and Alexandria, Va., was part of that group — shielded by federal government hiring. □

## Stocks end rough quarter with more questions

By TIM PARADIS  
and BERNARD CONDON,  
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — The stock market closed out a painful second quarter Wednesday and left investors with heavy losses and far more doubts about the economy than they had just months ago.

Stocks had their worst quarterly performance since the financial crisis. The Standard & Poor's 500 index, considered by many professional investors to be the best measure of the market's health, lost 11.9 percent, while the Dow Jones industrial average lost 10 percent. Both indexes are at their lows for 2010.

Meanwhile, Treasury notes and bonds soared during the quarter, driving interest rates sharply lower, as investors turning away from stocks sought a place where their money would be safe. In the early days of the quarter, the Treasury's 10-year note, used as a benchmark for consumer loans including mortgages, was close to 4 percent. By the quarter's end, it had fallen to 2.94 percent. On the last day of the April-June period, the Dow lost 96 points, and all the big indexes were down about 1 percent. Investors spent much of the quarter repeating the same questions they had a year earlier: Can the economy continue its recovery? Analysts say the answer most likely is yes but that traders are realizing it won't be easy. After reaching its highest point since the financial crisis in April, the market began its plunging in May when investors grew fearful that Greece wouldn't make good on debt payments. Its economy represents only a tiny part of the European Union but traders worried that bad debt would trip up the world's financial system the way it did after the collapse of



A stock investor checks the stock index at a brokerage house in Taiyuan, in north China's Shanxi province, Wednesday, June 30, 2010. Chinese shares fell for a sixth day Wednesday amid weak investor confidence following Wall Street's overnight decline.

(AP Photo)

Lehman Brothers in September 2008. Those fears morphed into concerns about how much countries have been spending to revive growth.

Investors who still feel burned by the losses of the financial crisis also seized on mixed economic news as an indication that the rebound was sputtering. Now, investors are trying to determine how the recovery will play out.

Economist Joel Naroff of Naroff Economic Advisors says investors are disappointed the economy is not growing as strongly as they had anticipated earlier this year amid talk of a so-called V-shaped recovery, in which the economy rebounds sharply after its big drop. But he thinks investors have sold too much. "They're thinking, 'Gee, if we're not getting a V-shaped recovery, we'll get a double dip.' They've gone from euphoria to depression," Naroff says. "The reality is somewhere in between."

Ted Aronson, a partner at Aronson-Johnson-Ortiz in Philadelphia, was a little baffled by traders' attitudes during the quarter.

"I don't know what's going on. (The markets) are always interesting. But this is really wacky," he said.

Some analysts said the rocky

second quarter was to be expected, given the market's history of recovering from big drops like the one stocks suffered during the 2008-09 financial crisis.

Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist of U.S. equity research at Standard & Poor's, dates the end of the latest recession to August of last year. That means the now-complete second quarter is the third full quarter since the recession's end. He noted that stocks drops are not uncommon in such a period; in fact, they happened following three of the four recessions prior to the latest one. "Investors anticipate what's going to happen (in a recovery), and sometimes they over-anticipate," Stovall said. After a couple of quarters pass, investors go through a "reality readjustment."

And apparently they're still not through at that point: Prices also tend to fall in the fourth quarter after recessions end, though Stovall cautions his data is more a curiosity than conclusive.

The quarter's final day saw a last-hour selloff that has become standard operating procedure, especially when a big economic number like the government's June employment report due out Friday is imminent. □



# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

### With LeBron the big prize, free agency set to open

BRIAN MAHONEY,

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The date has been circled on calendars around the NBA for years.

July 1, 2010: The day LeBron James becomes a free agent.

The day the league might begin to change forever.

"I think the landscape could really shift," former Phoenix Suns general manager Steve Kerr said.

Shopping season for free agents starts at midnight Thursday with James as the biggest prize, a two-time league MVP just reaching his prime.

Also for sale are perennial All-Stars Dwyane Wade,

*AL Roundup*

## Lee pitches Seattle to win over Yankees

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Cliff Lee pitched his third straight complete game as the Seattle Mariners beat the New York Yankees 7-4 on Tuesday.

Lee (7-3) beat New York twice in last year's World Series for the Philadelphia Phillies, including Game 1 at Yankee Stadium. He won the ballpark opener for Cleveland in April 2009.

This time, the left-hander allowed two solo homers to Nick Swisher, allowed his first walk in almost a month and gave up two runs in the ninth inning.

Rob Johnson hit a two-run double in the sixth and Ichiro Suzuki drove in two runs with an RBI single in the third and a sacrifice fly in the fifth. Franklin Gutierrez homered for Seattle.

Yankees starter Phil Hughes (10-2) allowed seven runs — six earned — and 10 hits in 5



Workers clean the giant banner of Cleveland Cavaliers star LeBron James on a building facing the team's home court at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland, on Tuesday, June 22, 2010.

Associated Press

Chris Bosh, Dirk Nowitzki, Amare Stoudemire and Joe Johnson, and NBA champions and Olympic gold medalists in search of something else for their collections: A maximum-salary contract.

Teams have been manipulating their salary spending to get to the starting line with money to burn.

"We've never had anything like this in my time that I can remember," New Jersey Nets president Rod Thorn said. "There have been big-time free agents before, but never this many teams that are trying to woo them. So it's unprecedented."

*Continued on Page 15*



Seattle Mariners' Cliff Lee pitches during the second inning of the baseball game against the New York Yankees on Tuesday, June 29, 2010, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Associated Press

2-3 innings. The Yankees had won six of eight.

Angels 6, Rangers 5

At Anaheim, California, Bobby Abreu hit a tiebreaking three-run double in the sixth inning as Los Angeles overcame Vladimir Guerrero's homer and three RBIs to beat Texas. Abreu delivered with a full count and two outs in the sixth for the second-place Angels, who ended Texas' eight-game road winning streak.

Guerrero, who wasn't resigned by Los Angeles last winter after six seasons, singled after getting a standing ovation in the first inning. He drove in a run with a third-inning sacrifice fly before an impressive two-run homer to center in the seventh off reliever Kevin Jepsen.

Mike Napoli homered and Joel Pineiro (8-6) allowed eight hits over six innings to win his fifth straight start for the Angels, who improved to

18-8 in June.

Ian Kinsler homered for the Rangers, whose road winning streak ended just short of the club record set in 1977.

Red Sox 8, Rays 5

At Boston, David Ortiz hit a three-run homer to break a fifth-inning tie, and Adrian Beltre had four hits as Boston downed Tampa Bay.

John Lackey (9-3) won his fifth straight decision, allowing one run and eight hits to give the Red Sox their 10th win in 13 games. With the Yankees' loss to the Seattle Mariners, Boston moved within one game of first-place New York in the American League East. Lackey and James Shields (6-8) had dueling shutouts until the bottom of the fifth, when Ortiz homered with runners on second and third and two outs. Beltre singled and scored to make it 5-0 after six, then doubled and scored on Bill Hall's homer that made it 8-1

after seven.

Willy Aybar hit a two-run, pinch-homer in the eighth to make it 8-3. The Rays added two more on Ben Zobrist's bloop single in the ninth, but Jonathan Papelbon struck out Aybar for his 18th save.

Shields, who has lost seven straight starts, gave up five runs and seven hits before leaving three batters into the sixth inning.

The Rays have lost nine of their last 12 games to fall behind Boston and into third

place in the AL East.

Indians 5, Blue Jays 4

At Cleveland, Fausto Carmona rebounded from his worst start of the season by pitching into the seventh inning as Cleveland edged Toronto.

**In other AL games it was Oakland 4, Baltimore 2; Seattle 7, N.Y. Yankees 4; Cleveland 5, Toronto 4; Boston 8, Tampa Bay 5; Chicago White Sox 4, Kansas City 3; Minnesota 11, Detroit 4; and L.A. Angels 6, Texas 5.** □



## NL Roundup

## Cincinnati goes deep to beat Philadelphia

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — Jay Bruce hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning off Roy Halladay, rallying the Cincinnati Reds past the Philadelphia Phillies in yet another last-gasp victory.

Joey Votto also homered off Halladay (9-7), who fell to 2-4 since his perfect game on May 29.

Jonny Gomes opened the eighth with a single, and Bruce connected for Cincinnati's 25th comeback win — most in the majors. The Reds have 14 wins in their last at-bat, tied for the major league lead.

Arthur Rhodes (3-2) pitched a perfect inning, recovering from his 10th-inning loss a few hours earlier. Francisco Cordero pitched the ninth for his 21st save in 26 tries.

Pirates 2, Cubs 0

At Chicago, Brad Lincoln pitched seven strong innings for his first major league win and Garrett Jones had a key RBI double as Pittsburgh continued its mastery of Chicago.

The last-place Pirates have

beaten the Cubs nine times in 12 meetings. One-third of their victories (27) this season have come at the expense of Chicago.

Pittsburgh broke the scoreless tie in the eighth with two unearned runs when Andy LaRoche reached on Aramis Ramirez's error with one out, Andrew McCutchen singled and Jones drove a ball off the ivy in left-center for a run-scoring double against reliever Andrew Cashner (0-3). After an intentional walk to Ryan Doumit loaded the bases, Chicago reliever Sean Marshall struck out Pedro Alvarez, but walked Lastings Milledge to make it 2-0.

Lincoln (1-2) allowed just four hits in seven innings. Joel Hanrahan pitched the eighth and Octavio Dotel the ninth for his 16th save in 19 chances to complete the five-hit shutout. Dodgers 8, Giants 2

At San Francisco, Matt Kemp homered and drove in three runs and Vincente Padilla won his 100th game as Los Angeles completed a three-game sweep of San Francisco.

Rafael Furcal had four hits, including a home run, and drove in two for the Dodgers, who earned a sweep in San Francisco for the first time in three years.

Padilla (2-2) won for the first time in three starts since coming off the disabled list on June 19.

Aaron Rowand had three hits, including a home run, for the Giants, who lost their fifth straight. Jonathan Sanchez (6-6) allowed five runs and six hits over five innings.

Padres 13, Rockies 3

At San Diego, Clayton Richard struck out a career-high 10 and drove in two runs, and Scott Hairston hit a three-run double and finished with four RBIs as San Diego routed Colorado to avoid a three-game sweep.

Every Padres regular had at least one hit and everyone scored at least one run except Hairston. Hairston had four RBIs for the second time in three games and drove in his older brother, Jerry Jr., twice. Chris Denorfia scored three runs. The National League West-leading Padres sent 11



Cincinnati Reds' Joey Votto, right, scores as San Francisco Giants catcher Bengie Molina catches the late throw in the third inning of a baseball game, Thursday, June 10, 2010, in Cincinnati. Votto scored on a hit by Jay Bruce.

batters to the plate in the six-run, fourth inning that chased Rockies starter Jeff Francis. Richard (6-4) allowed two runs and five hits in seven innings while walking one. □

Associated Press



U.S. players have a quick meeting during a Women's Softball World Championship game against Canada, in Caracas, Wednesday, June 30, 2010. U.S. won 16-1.

Associated Press

CHRISTOPHER TOOTHAKER

Associated Press Writer

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — The United States and Japan both won their playoff games in the world softball championship on Wednesday to remain undefeated and in position to reach the finals on Friday.

The U.S. defeated Canada 16-1 and Japan, the defending

Olympic champion, beat Venezuela 2-0.

The United States, which has won this tournament six consecutive times, began its offensive against Canada in the first inning with Alissa Haber doubling, driving in three runs and later scoring herself. The Americans never seemed to slow down.

In the second, shortstop Natasla Watley hit a double

deep into center field with the bases loaded, driving in two more runs. The Americans scored four more runs in the third to take a 9-1 lead.

Third baseman Andrea Duran singled in the fifth to drive in another run. Then Jenny Finch, the team's first baseman, hit an out-of-the-park homer with the bases loaded.

Finch said she suspected her blast into left field was going to make it over the wall.

"It felt like it had a good chance," she said.

U.S. team manager Jay Miller was delighted.

"I was real proud the way we came out today," said Miller, praising pitcher Monica Abbott for stopping Canada's offense.

"With Monica on the mound,

we don't need that many hits," he said.

The playoffs continue Thursday with the final scheduled for Friday. The Americans and Japanese are favored to reach the final, and any other result would be considered a major upset.

The United States and Japan are both 8-0 and are also slated to face off on Thursday.

"Any time we play Japan, it's a tough game," Abbott said. "We'll be ready for them."

Japan defeated the United States in the final game in the 2008 Olympics to take gold. Abbott's pitching arm was wrapped with an ice pack. Miller said he hadn't decided who he'll put on the mound on Thursday, but he said if Abbott was physically prepared she

will pitch.

Japan beat Venezuela 2-0, taking advantage of poor pitching to maintain its perfect record.

Venezuela opener Mariangee Bogado was off the mark throughout much of the game, walking several batters and hitting Ayumi Karino with a pitch.

Karino then stole second base and advanced to third off an error by Jineth Pimentel. She scored the first run off a hit by Satoko Mabushi. Designated hitter Mabushi later hit a fly that Jineth Pimentel couldn't handle, allowing Eri Yamada to score a second run and put Japan further ahead.

Despite the loss Venezuela remains alive and will play on Thursday. □



## WNBA Roundup

# Atlant beat Phoenix for third straight victory



Tulsa Shock guard Alexis Hornbuckle, left, and Connecticut Sun center Tina Charles, right, reach for a loose ball in the second quarter of a WNBA basketball game in Tulsa, Okla., Tuesday, June 29, 2010. Connecticut won 101-89.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Angel McCoughtry scored 18 points and Yelena Leuchanka hit two late free throws as the Atlanta Dream beat the Phoenix Mercury 94-88 Tuesday for their third straight victory. Phoenix, which has lost five straight, played its first

game this season without WNBA leading scorer Diana Taurasi. The 2009 league MVP watched the game from the bench after bruising her back Sunday at Washington.

Alison Bales' tiebreaking 18-foot jumper with 8:08 remaining gave the Dream (12-4) an 80-78 lead, their first since midway through the first quarter.

Leuchanka's free throws at the 1:44 mark put the Dream ahead 90-86.

Penny Taylor led the defending champion Mercury (5-10) with a season-high 31 points.

## Storm 86, Silver Stars 72

At Seattle, Lauren Jackson had 31 points and 15 rebounds to lead the short-handed Seattle Storm to an 86-72 victory over the San Antonio Silver Stars.

Despite playing without leading All-Star vote-getter Sue Bird, Seattle (14-2) matched the 1999 Houston Comets and 2002 Los Angeles Sparks for the fourth-best start in league history.

Swin Cash scored 16 points, and Svetlana Abrosimova, Tanisha Wright and Le'coe Willingham each had 11 for the Storm, who are now 10-0 in Western Conference play. Wright, starting at point guard in Bird's absence, also had 12 assists.

Becky Hammon scored 24 points and Chamique Holdsclaw had 16 to lead the second-place Silver Stars (5-8).

At Los Angeles, Cappie Pondexter scored 19 points and the New York Liberty pulled away in the third quarter to beat the Los Angeles Sparks 80-68 for their third consecutive victory.

Former Sparks player Taj McWilliams-Franklin added 14 points and Plenette Pierson had 13 for the Liberty (7-7), who controlled the boards 35-22 and improved to 2-4 on the road.

Noelle Quinn scored a career-high 24 points, topping her career-best for the second straight game, to lead the Sparks (3-11). They fell to 0-4 since leading scorer Candace Parker was lost for the season with a shoulder injury.

Marie Ferdinand-Harris, who replaced Parker in the starting lineup, added 12 points.

At Washington, Katie Smith made five 3-pointers for a season-high 21 points and Crystal Langhorne finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds as Washington held off Indiana.

The Mystics (10-5), who have won six of their last seven overall and improved to 7-1 at home, nearly let a nine-point lead with 4:16 left slip away. Katie Douglas' 3-pointer with 55.8 seconds left capped a 10-2 run and pulled the Fever to 66-65. Indiana, however, failed to score on its final three possessions.

The Fever's Briann January pulled up to attempt a tying 3-pointer in the closing seconds but Matee Ajavon stripped the ball away.

Tamika Catchings led the Fever (9-6) with 17 points.

In other WNBA games it was Washington 68, Indiana 65; Atlanta 94, Phoenix 88; Connecticut 101, Tulsa 89; Seattle 86, San Antonio 72; and New York 80, Los Angeles 68. □

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### LEBRON THE PRIZE

*Continued from Page 12*

Thorn is headed to Ohio, where James will welcome suitors to his home state on Thursday. Thorn will be joined by new Nets owner Mikhail Prokhorov, coach Avery Johnson and hip-hop superstar Jay-Z, a part-owner and James' longtime friend.

Then it's back home to make pitches the next day in New York to Wade and Bosh — though minus Jay-Z. (Sorry guys, the day job calls. He's touring in Europe).

The New York Knicks plan to drop in on James, too. They can afford James and another max player, which might be what they need to revive after a team-worst nine straight losing seasons.

"We've had to live through some tough times in order to get where you think you start rebuilding the franchise," team president Donnie Walsh said. "We have that opportunity now. How well, how fast we can rebuild the team can be shortcut by getting great players."

They'll have plenty of competition. The Nets, Miami Heat, Chicago Bulls and Los Angeles Clippers can offer max deals, which will pay about \$16.6 million next season. Chicago and New Jersey made trades in recent days to push them closer to joining the Knicks

with enough to offer two max deals, and the Heat can keep Wade, give an additional max contract and have enough left over for another quality player.

So much for the theory that free agency isn't the route to building a winner in the NBA, where top players rarely leave because their teams can offer them more money. (James would give up about \$30 million if he bolts Cleveland).

The Knicks traded away Jamal Crawford and Zach Randolph — the NBA's top sixth man and a first-time All-Star, respectively — to get their \$34 million in salary cap room. New Jersey shipped out Jason Kidd, Richard Jefferson and Vince Carter in recent years, resulting in a 12-70 win-loss record last season but hope for a quick turnaround. Miami essentially left Wade to play by himself last season in exchange for the chance to get him more help than he could ever want starting on Thursday.

"You look at the teams that have an awful lot of cap space, there could be a lot of power shifting in this league," Minnesota coach Kurt Rambis said.

The clock started ticking four summers ago, when James, Wade and Bosh passed on maximum-length extensions on their rookie contracts in favor of shorter



Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates after defeating Taiwan's Lu Yen-Hsun in their quarterfinal match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, Wednesday, June 30, 2010.

*Associated Press*

deals that allowed them to opt for free agency this summer.

Momentum kept building as fears grew that owners will seek radical changes in length and value of contracts next summer when the league's collective bargaining agreement expires. That made it wise for a player like Nowitzki, even if he has no intention of leaving Dallas, to exercise his early termination option now and sign a new deal under the current rules.

Toronto Raptors general manager Bryan Colangelo called it a "unique set of circumstances that's got everyone into a frenzy" during a radio interview on Monday, when he said it was likely Bosh would leave.

If the All-Star forward joins James, or Wade, or both, that team should become an immediate championship contender. Boston won the title the year after assembling its Big Three — which could now be broken up with Ray Allen on the market — and the Los Angeles Lakers have reached the finals every year since acquiring Pau Gasol to complement Kobe Bryant.

Deals can be agreed to but can't be signed until July 8. The process often goes

quickly but this year that's probably up to James and his advisers, because teams in the running for him probably won't move on to Plan B until they know his intentions. With so many potential good options, he might want to take his time. After years of jockeying by teams, anticipation by the players and speculation by the media, it's time to get started.

"It's what we live for," Dallas Mavericks president Donnie Nelson said. "It's fun." □





# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

# Federer loses to Berdych in Wimbledon quarters

STEPHEN WILSON

AP Sports Writer

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)

— For the first time in eight years, Roger Federer won't be striding onto Centre Court for the Wimbledon final.

The six-time champion was upset in the quarterfinals by big-hitting Tomas Berdych on Wednesday, stopping his bid for a record-tying seventh title at the All England Club and extending his recent stretch of disappointing play.

The 12th-seeded Berdych used his big serve and forehand to beat Federer 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, on Centre Court for the biggest victory of the Czech's career.

Berdych will meet No. 3 Novak Djokovic for a spot in the final, with No. 2 Rafael Nadal facing No. 4 Andy Murray in the other semifinal. It's the first time since 2002 that Federer has failed to reach the final. Since losing in the first round eight years ago, Federer had played in the championship match a record seven consecutive times. He won the title six times and finished runner-up once, bolstering his reputation as the greatest player of all-time.

Winner of a record 16 Grand Slam titles, Federer said he was unable to play his best tennis Wednesday because of pain in his back and right leg. "I couldn't play the way I wanted to play," said Federer, who had been chasing the record of seven titles won by Pete Sampras and 19th-century player William Renshaw. "I am struggling with a little bit of a back and a leg issue. That just doesn't quite allow me to play the way I would like to play. It's frustrating, to say the least." Berdych said he didn't notice anything wrong with Federer. "I don't know if he is just looking for some excuses after the match or something like that," he said. "I think he



**Roger Federer, left, wipes his face during his men's singles quarterfinal against Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic, at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, Wednesday, June 30, 2010. Serbia's Novak Djokovic, right, celebrates after defeating Taiwan's Lu Yen-Hsun in their quarterfinal match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, Wednesday, June 30, 2010.**

was 100 percent ready."

Berdych ripped a clean forehand winner on his second match point to become the first Czech to reach the men's semifinals since Ivan Lendl in 1990.

"Not many other moments can compare to this one," Berdych said. "Standing on Centre Court here in Wimbledon, beating the six-time champion here. It couldn't be better. But there is still one match to feel better feelings than this one. I hope I can get to that."

Berdych will next face Djokovic, who swept past Yen-hsun Lu in straight sets to reach the semifinals for the second time. The third-seeded Djokovic never faced a break point as he beat the 82nd-ranked Taiwanese player 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 in less than two hours on Court 1.

Nadal, who beat Federer in the 2008 final, lost the first five games of the match but rallied to defeat No. 6 Robin Soderling 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-1. It was a rematch of this year's French Open final, which the Spaniard also won.

Nadal will play Murray, who downed 10th-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-7 (5), 7-6 (5), 6-2, 6-2 to make the semis for the second straight year. Murray rallied after losing his first set of the tournament and

punctuated the victory with a vicious forehand winner on match point.

Murray is bidding to become the first British player to win the men's title at Wimbledon since Fred Perry in 1936. The last British man to reach the final was Bunny Austin in 1938. With the loss, Federer will drop to No. 3 in the ATP rankings next week for the first time since Nov. 10, 2003. Since winning the Australian Open in January, he has failed to win a tournament.

Federer said his leg and back have been bothering him since the grass-court tournament in Halle, Germany, the week before Wimbledon. He hadn't previously mentioned any injury problems.

"When you're hurting, it's just a combination of many things," Federer said. "You just don't feel as comfortable. You can't concentrate on each and every point because you do feel the pain sometimes. You tend to play differently than the way you want to play."

"Under the circumstances, I think I played a decent match," he added. "But I've been feeling bad for the last two, three matches now. If there's anything good about this, it's that I'm going to get some rest."

Federer was playing in his



25th consecutive Grand Slam quarterfinal. He had won 23 straight, but now has lost two in a row. Federer fell to Soderling at the French Open earlier this month.

Federer had won 76 of 77 grass-court matches dating to 2003 coming into this month, but has now lost two of the past six, including to Lleyton Hewitt in Halle.

Federer was clearly outplayed Wednesday by a man who has always possessed enormous talent but often failed to live up to expectations.

The 6-foot-5 Berdych was on the offensive for most of the match, smacking first serves consistently in the 130s mph, winding up to rip forehand winners and not buckling under pressure. He hit 51 winners, compared to 44 for Federer.

"He played well when he had to," Federer said. "It was brutal for me. Every time he had a chance, he took it. On the break points, he played great on those. ... When I did have chances, I played poorly. It was just a frustrating match the way it all went."

Berdych broke Federer four times, with the final break coming in the seventh game of the fourth set. Berdych served 12 aces, was broken just once and saved seven of eight break

points.

Federer came in with an 8-2 career record against Berdych, having lost the first match at the 2004 Athens Olympics and the last in Miami this year.

"I don't think I played poorly," Federer said. "I think he went after it. I know Berdych. I think I've played him 10 times already before. That's the way he plays. "I think he's been able to play more consistent last year or so, and I was just not able to defend well enough and I didn't come up with the good stuff when I had to. It was disappointing."

Lu stunned three-time finalist Andy Roddick in the fourth round, but couldn't replicate that performance against Djokovic, the 2008 Australian Open champion.

Djokovic lost just 12 points in 13 service games. He won 26 of his first 28 service points, including 15 in a row. The Serb had 29 winners and 17 unforced errors, and converted five of 15 break points.

"Nothing is easy these days, especially at this stage of the tournament," Djokovic said. "But the way I played, I deserved to win. I was hitting all the shots and I was really playing very solid from all parts of the court. I'm very, very happy with the performance today." □

Associated Press



## Vanessa Paulina, portrait artist, opens her latest exhibit Westin Art Gallery hosts "The Language of the Eye"



**PALM BEACH** The very talented artist, Vanessa Paulina was raised in Curacao, Aruba and Bonaire.

*Page B2*  
Fishermen's Day celebrated with 608.5 catch

## Hadicurari Fish Center very thankful



**PALM BEACH** - Hadicurari Fish Center celebrated last Sunday "Fishermen's Day" a yearly fish tournament, seafood festival & family day.

*Page B8 & B9*

*Hi-Winds: 'Be There For Big Air'*

## Buster's Garage hosts Kick Off Party



**FISHERMAN'S HUTS** – Last evening was the kickoff party for the Aruba Hi-Winds which will be held from June 30th to July 5th, 2010, Aruba will once again ride the waves of the Aruba Hi-Winds, the largest amateur windsurfing competition in the Caribbean. Now in its 24th year, the Aruba Hi-Winds features windsurfing and kite boarding events in various categories and open to professionals and amateurs alike.

Aruba provides the ideal setting for this windsurfing and kite boarding event, with its cooling trade winds, beautiful blue waters, and white sandy beaches. Visitors and locals can sign up for the competition or simply relax and take in the excitement from the beaches off the Fisherman's Huts at Hadicurari, the location of the Hi-Winds events.

The categories include men, women, masters, and kids and they feature course racing and freestyle for kite surfing, as well as a long distance race, and a King and Queen of the Huts competition.

*Continued on Page B4*



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Vanessa Paulina, portrait artist, opens her latest exhibit

# Westin Art Gallery hosts “The Language of the Eye”



PALM BEACH The very talented artist, Vanessa Paulina was raised in Curacao, Aruba and Bonaire. Friendly and appreciative, she has a natural talent for generating images that radiate a detailed simplicity that brings out the expressiveness in island children and adults. Some dressed in native dress from years gone by, Vanessa’s portraits capture the faces of her culture. She paints in different time periods that verify the



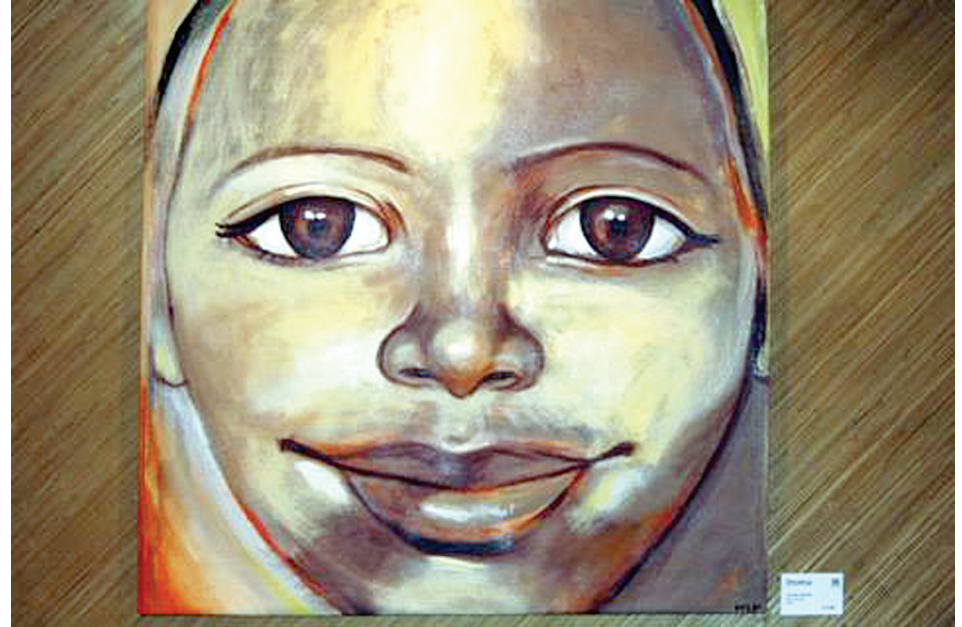
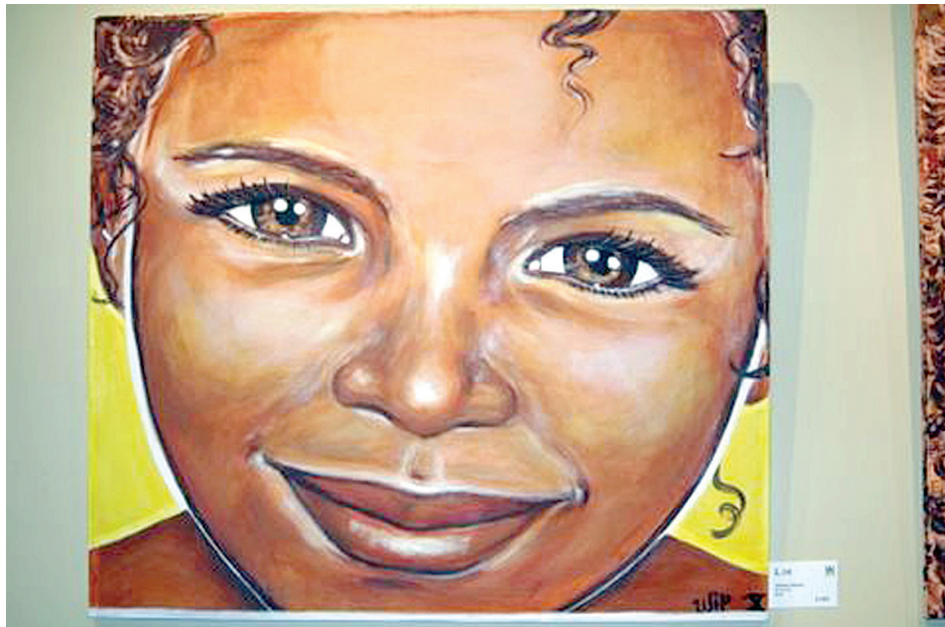
Caribbean culture that she was raised in, and which still draws her in.

It is the eyes of the people she portrays which draw US in, through these eyes she has managed to visualize and translate her thoughts right onto the canvas. The eye that sees whatever it wishes to see, is the eye

that captures the viewer and tells its own story.

Her characters come to life on the canvas, and it is the viewers perception that decides what we are actually seeing.

We make the story, perhaps with an air of melancholy? You decide. Don’t miss this exhibit - it is truly one of a kind. □





Aruba Marriott Sponsors Travel Bloggers Exchange Event In New York City

# International Travel Bloggers Experiencing Adventurous Side of Aruba



PALM BEACH - On June 28, 2010 the Aruba Marriott Resort welcomed a group of travel bloggers from the US. After a successful Travel Bloggers Exchange (TBEX) Event in New York City, a total of five

participants, including TBEX founder and host Kim Mance of Galavanting, were invited by sponsor Aruba Marriott to experience the resort and explore the island of Aruba. On Monday, the group enjoyed



a sunset dinner at Marriott's beachfront restaurant Simply Fish. The Tuesday morning was reserved for an adventurous jeep tour, provided by De Palm Tours. The group experienced the rough edges of the island, visiting the Natural Pool and other amazing sights followed by a lunch at famous Charlie's Bar in San Nicolas. In the afternoon all press members got to try a first class in beach tennis, provided by Aruba's beach tennis pro's at the official beach tennis courts at Moomba Beach, followed by refreshing sunset cocktails. On Thursday morning the group enjoyed spa treatments at Marriott's Mandara Spa. In the afternoon, the group strapped up their gear and got ready to learn some kite boarding. With strong winds and two "Dare 2 Fly" instructors, the press began their first lessons on land. After one hour the daredevils were ready to hit the waters, where they experienced the strong winds that drag them out in the sea. The press trip ended the bloggers press trip Thursday evening with a farewell dinner at popular Pinchos Grill & Bar. The Aruba Marriott would like to thank De Palm Tours, Aruba Beach Tennis, Charlie's Bar, Dare 2 Fly kite boarding center and Pinchos Grill and Bar for their cooperation and hospitality with the travel bloggers group. □



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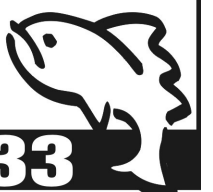


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INDOOR & OPEN AIR

## Buster's Garage hosts Kick Off Party



*Continued from Page B1*

The thrills don't end with the water sports. The Aruba Hi-Winds is a non-stop party, with music, lunches, dinners, happy hours, and celebrations taking place on the beach throughout the entire six-day event. Highlights of the competition include a welcome dinner at



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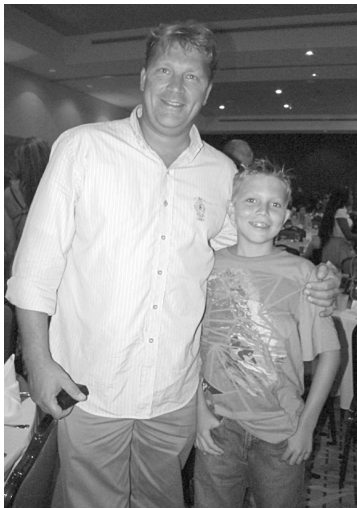
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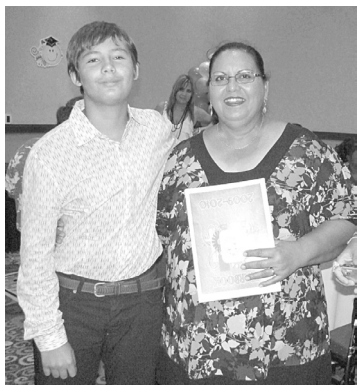
at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa. The program included a lovely buffet dinner, catered by the culinary team of the resort, a mini show starring the students and the presentation of diplomas to 80 proud students, with loving parents and family members in the audience. Pictured here unforgettable moment at the Radisson



Aruba Resort Casino & Spa. □



**PALM BEACH** – The graduation party of Washington School's sixth grade took place in the Grand Caribbean Ballroom



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## HUMAN HINTS Compassion

Yesterday we discussed commitment. We said that both commitment and compassion are necessary for manifestation. Without commitment you'll get distracted from your path, usually without even knowing it. Today we'll discuss compassion, and what it means to our personal journey.

Compassion is deep awareness and sympathy for other's feelings and emotions. When people share feelings, their energy resonates and empowers everyone. Compassion is

not feeling sorry for others. Feeling sorry invokes pity, which disempowers everyone.

Compassion comes from a place of equality, while pity puts one person above another. We can get lost in pity, but compassion keeps us balanced when we share the emotions of others. When we're balanced in compassion, we have the courage to take action.

Compassion for others helps us feel gratitude for the abundance in our lives which we normally take for

granted. When something is abundant, it is natural for us to ignore it. In three dimensions, we've been taught that focusing on what we lack helps to insure our survival. Focusing on not having food will drive us to find a way to feed our families. When something is abundant, we don't have to think about it at all. How often do we think about having enough air to breathe? It crosses our mind only when its gone.

When we feel compassion for others, we learn to feel compassion for ourselves, which makes life a lot easier. When we have compassion for our selves, we realize that we do our best in each moment. With the understanding that we all feel Human weakness, we free ourselves. Compassion allowseffortlessforgiveness with others and within your self.

Compassion connects you to Humanity and injects your sympathetic energy into the Human Collective. With Compassion, you are connected and contributing to the Whole. While you share other's pain, they will be able to access

your balance and support. The precious moment of merciful relief that appears when someone needs it most, will be from you. Your compassion might clear someone's mind in a critical moment, stopping untold tragedy.

We can't know what actions, thoughts and emotions will change lives, or in what ways. Baking cookies for a fundraiser can save lives. Preying for others and the Whole saves lives. Your small, selfless contribution of personal energy helps dramatically in ways you cannot possibly imagine.

It is important that we approach compassion from a selfless point of view. Taking action just for recognition is selfish, no matter how much it might help. When we want to know the specific difference we make, we are being selfish. Express your compassion and release the energy. State your prayer and let it go. Take action and release the outcome with Love.

When you act and feel with commitment and compassion, nothing can stop you. Stay on the path

you choose, and share in other's suffering without pity.

Until Tomorrow...


Go to [www.HumanHints.com](http://www.HumanHints.com) to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

### ~Quentin Danziger


Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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PG	<b>SHREK FOREVER AFTER 3D</b>		4.00	6.15 8.45
	daily:			
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PG-13	<b>DEATH AT A FUNERAL</b>			
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PG	<b>TOY STORY 3 3D</b>		4.15	6.45
	daily:			
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PG-13	<b>THE A-TEAM</b>		6.00	8.45
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PG	<b>MARMADUKE</b>		4.30	6.30
	daily:			
	matinee:	12.00	2.15	late show:
PG	<b>THE KARATE KID</b>		6.00	8.45
	daily:			
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AT PASEO HERENCIA				
PG-13 <b>NEW</b>	<b>KNIGHT &amp; DAY</b>		6.00	8.30
	daily:			
	matinee:	12.45	3.30	late show: 11.00
R	<b>GET HIM TO THE GREEK</b>		6.45	9.15
	daily:			
	matinee:			late show: 12.00
PG-13	<b>KILLERS</b>		4.30	6.45 9.00
	daily:			
	matinee:	12.00	2.15	late show: 11.45
PG-13	<b>THE A-TEAM</b>		6.15	8.45
	daily:			
	matinee:	12.30	3.15	late show: 11.30
PG	<b>SHREK FOREVER AFTER</b>		4.30	
	daily:			
	matinee:	12.00	2.15	late show:
PG	<b>THE KARATE KID</b>		6.00	8.45
	daily:			
	matinee:	12.00	3.00	late show: 11.45
PG	<b>TOY STORY 3 3D</b>		4.00	6.30
	daily:			
	matinee:	1.30		late show:
R	<b>SEX AND THE CITY 2</b>		9.15	
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Matinee: sat & sun | Late show: fri & sat



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# Renaissance Mall is now open from 10 am until 8pm!!



ORANJESTAD - Perfectly located in the heart of downtown Oranjestad, Renaissance Mall houses over 60 stores and offers an assortment of restaurants and entertainment options. As of July 1, 2010, this upscale shopping Mecca will honor new opening hours, from 10 AM to 8 PM, Monday through Saturday, for greater shopping convenience. The Renaissance Mall carries the latest collections of luxury brands such as Gucci, Salvatore Ferragamo, and Louis Vuitton, as well as other



high-end lines and one-of-a-kind boutique fashions. The opening of Starbuck's second location is sure to please shoppers needing a quick pick-me-up, while Aquarius and LG Smith Steak and Chophouse guarantee great dining experiences. An oasis of relaxation can be found at Okeanos Spa, while patrons looking for more exciting entertainment can try their luck at Crystal Casino or check out what's featuring at Crystal Theater—from movie premieres and boxing, soccer, and football games to live shows, concerts, and fashion shows. □

## Spectacular seafood special at Driftwood

### From the pier to your plate at authentic Aruban seafood restaurant

ORANJESTAD - It's happening downtown. Established Driftwood Restaurant launches a serie of spectacular and delicious seafood specials, available now.

Driftwood is specialized in fresh seafood from the Caribbean Sea and has become the favorite spot for Aruban-style seafood dishes. Fresh fish is caught daily by the owner himself and



perfectly and authentically prepared by their talented local Chef.

Located in the heart of characteristic downtown, Driftwood offers you a unique dining experience. Enjoy the freshest fish, biggest shrimp, or the most succulent Caribbean lobster amid the rustic ambience of the natural driftwood dining room.

*The authentic local seafood restaurant.*

The menu includes a large variety of typically Aruban delicacies including a three star fish soup and a mouth-watering filet of fish served with a mild Aruban Creole sauce... a seafood lover's dream come true.

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.



**Special of the month**  
Every month the Chef treats his customers with a delicious dinner special. In June one may choose from different soups, fish cakes or salads to start with. The main

course is a choice of catch of the day (prepared your way), Jumbo Shrimp or for the meatlovers Filet Mignon or Chicken Breast. The evening is topped with a grand dessert and coffee or tea.

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Fishermen's Day celebrated with 608.5 catch

# Hadicurari Fish Center very thankful

Tribute to who contributed to "Dia di Piscado"



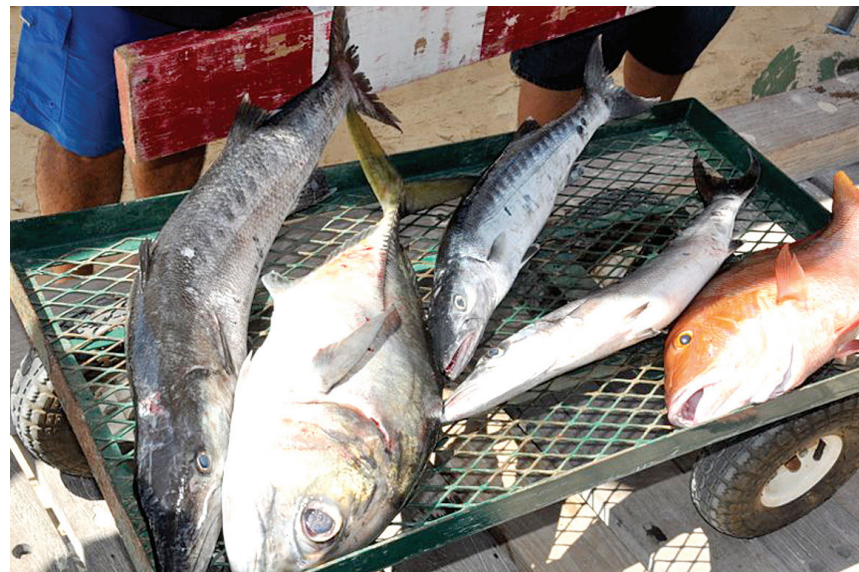
PALM BEACH - Hadicurari Fish Center celebrated last Sunday "Fishermen's Day" a yearly fish tournament, seafood festival & family day. More than 29 boats set off to sea in spite of rough sea and hard winds which resulted in a record breaking 608.5 kg of fish in. The seafood festival was held on the beach where

a variety of traditional seafood was sold at local prices. Musical entertainment was provided by local band "Los Amigos" where folks could not resist dancing to. At 7 o'clock Minister Richard Visser did the honors by giving the prizes away to the winners. Winners in the Crioyo



category:  
~ 3rd place: Shahaira with captain Chin Christiaans and his team "Picuda Boys" with 22 kg of catch.  
~ 2nd place: Zenia with captain Ronny Tromp and his team "Pasa Pret" with 28.5 kg of fish.  
~ 1st place: Dachi with captain Glenn Tromp and his team "Hubaso Boys" with 57.5 kg of fish.  
Winners in the Open

category:  
In the Open category at 3rd place My Darling with captain Pablo Erasmus and his "Waka Waka Boys" with 51.5 kg of fish.  
The 2nd place Jo-Ann with captain Buchi Briesen and his team "Jo-Ann" with 104.75 kg of catch. The 1st place won Glendeline with captain Mario Bislip and his team "Glendeline" with 124.5 kg of fish.



Outstanding:

Best "Picuda" fish went to the "Picuda Boys" with Chin Christiaans of Shahaira with a weight of 4 kg.  
Best "Mulato" fish went to the "Caroline" team with Marcelino de Jesus of Caroline with a weight of 10 kg.  
Best "Djampau" fish went to the



"Waka Waka Boys" with Pablo Erasmus of My Darling with a weight of 13.5 kg.  
The price for the biggest fish caught in this tournament went to the "Faya" team with Captain Milton Tromp of Destiny whose weight was 14 kg.  
Other prizes:  
The price with the most fish caught



went to the "Hubaso Boys" whom took the pot in the "Crioyo/Tradicional" category.  
The price with the most fish caught went also to Hadicurari member Pablo Erasmus and his "WakaWaka Boys" of My Darling. The pot in the "Open" category went to Glendeline from Mario Bislip and his team of the same name.

Special thanks to:  
The organization would like to thank everybody and who contributed in making this year event possible.  
A special thanks to sponsors: Triple A, APA N.V. SETAR, Wema, Pelican Watersports, Pelican's Nest Restaurant, Aquagrill Restaurant, Bucaneer Restaurant, Driftwood Restaurant and Elmax.  
Also a special thanks to all the press for covering the event. Many thanks to Fundacion Search and Rescue, Kustwacht and others for their support. Fundacion Centro di





*Arubans decide the future*

# Sandra & Renzo are engaged in the USA



California -- Sandra Betancourt and Renzo Escalante got engaged, just recently at the beautiful Vineyards and Winery of Ferrari- Carano, in Sonoma, California. The lovebirds went to Southern California first to spend a weekend with family members then they headed out to Sonoma and Napa Valley for a couple of days, and spent their last three days in San Francisco, sharing quality time with more family members. While at the winery Renzo got inspired and asked his long time girlfriend and companion for her hand

in marriage -- luckily he was prepared with ring, flowers, and two flutes of champagne -- and she naturally said yes, against the irresistible backdrop of romantic gazebo and flowering garden. Renzo, a happy resident of Aruba, is regional sales manager for the Aruba Yellow Pages, while Sandra is a hotel manager by profession and currently works for the Hyatt Summerfield Suites in Miami, FL. The Betancourt-Escalantes will be residing in Aruba, once married. Pabien and congratulations, from all your friends!!!





## BUSINESS

## Aruba TODAY

## When is a drug too risky to stay on the market?

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE,  
AP Medical Writer

The arthritis pill Vioxx was withdrawn but menopause hormones were not, even though both were tied to heart risks. A multiple sclerosis medicine was pulled and later allowed back on.

So, when is a drug too risky to stay on the market?

Drug safety questions arose again this week, as calls mount for the diabetes pill Avandia to be withdrawn. Surprisingly, the Food and Drug Administration has no firm rules for deciding such cases — just a murky guideline of “when the risks exceed the benefits.”

“Each drug has its own complex story,” so comparisons to previous decisions can’t be made, said Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, the FDA’s principal deputy commissioner.

The agency does need better criteria for weighing drug safety, he said. It has asked a group of outside scientists, the Institute of Medicine, to give advice. A report is expected before the July 13-14 hearing on Avandia, a controversial pill whose maker, GlaxoSmithKline PLC, insists is safe.

The FDA can order a drug off the market, but that can be challenged in court. Usually, a company voluntarily withdraws the medicine at the FDA’s request.

Many things influence whether such a request is made, said Dr. Brian Strom, a drug safety expert at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a longtime FDA drug safety adviser who

has consulted for Takeda Pharmaceuticals, which makes Actos, an Avandia rival.

Some factors to consider:

- How serious is the illness being treated? Severe side effects are accepted for cancer drugs, for example, but not for an allergy drug such as Seldane, which on rare occasions caused sudden death and was withdrawn a decade ago, Strom said.
- How big is the harm? “Causing a little nausea isn’t so bad. Killing people is,” Strom said.

- How frequent are the risks versus the benefits?

A large federal study was stopped in 2002 after researchers saw more breast cancers and heart problems among women taking estrogen-progestin pills. Yet the absolute risk of suffering one of these problems was relatively small, and hormones remain the most effective treatment for menopause symptoms.

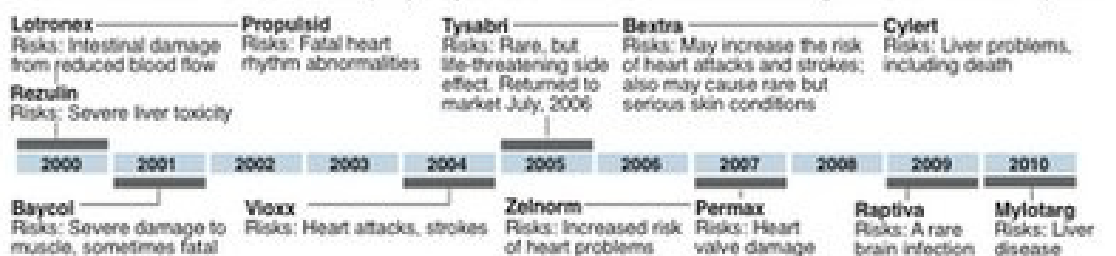
The multiple sclerosis drug Tysabri was withdrawn in 2005 because of a rare but serious side effect, then returned to the market a year later under a restricted distribution system. There are few drugs available to help people with that disease.

- Are there safer alternatives? This may prove to be the strongest argument for those wanting Avandia withdrawn. A new study this week found Actos — the only other drug that works the way Avandia does — to be safer.

The popular arthritis pill Vioxx originally won approval because it was a

## Recent drugs withdrawn from market

When a drug’s risks exceed its benefits, the federal Food and Drug Administration may ask a company to withdraw it from the market, or a company may do so on its own. Here are some drugs withdrawn in recent years.



SOURCES: U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Drug Pipeline Alert

AP

Graphic shows timeline of drugs recently withdrawn from the market from the last decade.

more powerful and safer alternative to painkillers that cause stomach troubles. That advantage disappeared when Vioxx’s heart risks emerged, and a drug without that problem, Pfizer Inc.’s Celebrex, was available. Merck & Co. withdrew Vioxx in 2004. Many see a similar situation with Avandia and Actos. However, Sharfstein said one of the issues the Institute of Medicine had been asked to advise the FDA on is how to weigh comparison studies, especially if they are not gold-standard trials where similar groups of people are given one or the other pill and followed over time to see how each group fares.

“Avandia won’t be decided in reference to Vioxx,” Sharfstein said. “It will stand on its own.”

The internal staff analyses of risks have not been released yet, and will shed more light on the situation, he added.

In Avandia’s case, some but not all studies have tied it to heart risks and deaths, and the bottom line may be different for various age groups. A new study this week found risks among elderly Medicare patients not seen in younger ones.

Also, the drug initially won approval in 1999 because it lowered blood sugar. That’s a less clear benefit than reducing kidney problems or other diabetes complications.

Questionable approval criteria now are coming back to haunt the FDA as harmful effects emerge for drugs already in wide use, said Dr. Alastair Wood. He is a longtime Vanderbilt University professor now at a private equity firm who has led many FDA drug safety panels.

“Ten years since the drug was approved and we still don’t know if it produces the benefits that patients really want. That’s unacceptable,” he lamented.

Dr. Robert Califf, a heart research leader at Duke University, agreed.

“We’ve got these legacy drugs that are out there without clear evidence one way or another,” because they were approved on “soft” criteria, he said.

Given that, it’s hard to see how the FDA can push

Glaxo to withdraw Avandia now, he said. The studies on risk “are all over the place,” said Califf, who has consulted for the company.

The FDA has called the special meeting in July to hear from experts on its endocrinology and drug safety panels, which include physicians from leading hospitals and research universities.

Ultimately, though, the decision whether to withdraw the drug rests with federal scientists. In 2007, the agency’s internal panel of drug safety specialists voted 8-7 to keep Avandia on the market.

The agency’s drug safety panel, which consists of high-ranking officials from the FDA and other agencies, was set up in 2005 to resolve safety disputes, after the agency was criticized for its handling of the Vioxx situation.

It will likely include FDA drug center leadership who oversaw the initial approval and subsequent labeling of Avandia. □





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# Unusual 17th-century Dutch horse burial site found

By TOBY STERLING,  
Associated Press Writer  
AMSTERDAM

Archeologists have uncovered a mass grave with the complete skeletons of 51 horses buried side-by-side, probably the long-forgotten equine victims of a 17th century battle over a strategic Dutch river.

It was the largest known equine burial ground in Europe, although chief archaeologist Angela Simons said Wednesday that many such sites have probably existed and have been plowed up over the centuries by unwitting farmers.

The archaeological team had been looking for evidence of prehistoric human settlements in the area when they came across the unexpected find.

"From the first shovel, it was horses, horses and more horses," said Angela Simons, of the Hazenberg company, which was employed by the Dutch government to survey the ground ahead of a construction project.

The horses showed signs of being buried quickly: their bodies were not carefully arranged, and the skeletons occasionally overlap.

"It's easy to imagine this is how cavalry men might dispose of dead mounts in war time," Simons said. Disease or a plague could not be ruled



An archeologist works to uncover horse skeletons in Borgharen, south-east Netherlands, Wednesday, June 30, 2010. Archeologists in the Netherlands have come across a unique find, complete skeletons of 51 horses buried in a row, probably the long-forgotten equine victims of a 17th century battle. The skeletons were uncovered in a drainage ditch near the Maas river, 3 kilometers (2 miles) north of Maastricht.

(AP Photo/Ermino Armino)

out.

It also was unclear whether the horses were buried out of respect, or because of the fear of contamination from so many decomposing corpses.

The skeletons were in a ditch in a field near the Maas River in Borgharen, around 2 miles (3 kilometers) north of the Dutch border city of Maastricht.

Initial carbon testing dated the bones to the 17th century, when the Netherlands was still struggling to emerge as a nation.

If the horses were killed in a battle, likely candidates include a fight in 1632 during the Eighty Years' War, when

Dutch rebels quartered in Borgharen repelled a surprise charge by the Spanish cavalry.

Another possibility is the 1673 siege of Maastricht by soldiers of French "Sun King" Louis XIV. That battle is considered a milestone in siege warfare, because of how the attacking French used zigzagging ditches to give their soldiers cover from the city's battlements.

Both engagements were fought during the summer.

No traces of bridles or saddles were found in the shallow 130-foot (40-meter) -long grave, suggesting they were removed. The researchers discovered just one stirrup and several horseshoes.

One horse had a bullet in its skull just behind the eye-socket, probably an injured horse shot to prevent further suffering, Simons said.

Evidence suggests they were cavalry horses. Most appeared to be around 4 years old, and their size and bone structure suggests they were for riding, not draft horses.

Simons, who is German, said it was possible the animals had some connection with several French soldiers whose skeletons were uncovered on a riverbank in Borgharen in 2004. The human skeletons were identified as French from their coat buttons. □

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	<b>Advertising Coordinator</b> Sandra Loefstop-Duarte aviso@bondia.com bondia.aruba@gmail.com

www.arubatoday.com  
E-mail: news@arubatoday.com

# The 'Elusive' Truth About Kagan

L. Brent Bozell

It's not cute when reporters play dumb. Last year, when Barack Obama nominated Sonia Sotomayor for the Supreme Court, CBS anchor Katie Couric said labeling her "won't be easy." CBS reporter Wyatt Andrews found "no clear ideology" in her public record. This week, the Washington Post embarrassed themselves with a front-page story claiming, "Obama has not chosen outspoken liberals in either of his first two opportunities to influence the makeup of the court."

That ridiculous sentence collides with a June 8 report by liberal Los Angeles Times legal reporter David Savage. "The early returns are in, and Justice Sonia Sotomayor is proving herself to be a reliable liberal vote on the Supreme Court. Cases this year on campaign speech, religion, juvenile crime, federal power and Miranda warnings resulted in an ideological split among the justices, and on every occasion, Sotomayor joined the liberal bloc."

That verdict came before Sotomayor voted with the gun-controllers in the Chicago gun-rights case, before Sotomayor voted for allowing public universities to deny recognition to Christian student groups who dare to oppose homosexuality and before Sotomayor voted as part of a 6-3 minority that it shouldn't be illegal to provide material support to groups defined by our government as foreign terrorists.

Now match that record with what the liberal media claimed about Sotomayor. "You know, for a Democrat, she has a pretty conservative record," NPR reporter Nina Totenberg announced on PBS's "Charlie Rose" show last year. "In fact, on a lot of criminal law issues, you could say that she's more conservative than some members of the Supreme Court, including Justice Scalia."

If Totenberg sold shoddy diet pills that fraudulently, she'd be a red-hot case for the Federal Trade Commission.

So why should anyone believe the media are telling the truth now when they suggest Elena Kagan cannot be called liberal? Kagan's views are "elusive," the media chant in unison. They all tried to evade Kagan's vivid writing as a college student in the Daily Princetonian in 1980, about how she cried and got drunk when Ronald Reagan won and "ultraconservative" Al D'Amato defeated her candidate, ultraliberal Democrat Liz Holtzman. She wished that "our emotion-packed conclusion that the world had gone mad, that liberalism was dead and that

there was no longer any place for the ideals we held or the beliefs we espoused" would be replaced by the hope that the Reagan era would be "marked by American disillusionment with conservative programs and solutions, and that a new, revitalized, perhaps more leftist left will once again come to the fore."

Unbelievably, our journalistic geniuses can read that and say Kagan's political views are "elusive."

In their deference to Obama, the networks barely mentioned Kagan for the six weeks between her nomination and her confirmation hearings. Conservative interest groups putting out complaints that she'd be a radical justice on abortion and gay marriage are not newsworthy, even though liberal interest groups ranting about "far right" Bush nominees were tenderly solicited by the same networks. One TV reporter filed one story that broke the mold. On June 3, CBS legal reporter Jan Crawford said documents in Thurgood Marshall's papers in the Library of Congress showed that "Kagan stood shoulder to shoulder with the liberal left, including on the most controversial issue Supreme Court nominees ever confront: abortion."

The White House was furious that Crawford would dare tell the truth about such a thing. "Their reaction has been to push back so strongly on allegations, as they would put it, that she's a liberal," she revealed. "Like there's something wrong with that, like it's a smear to say their nominee is a liberal."

When the hearings began, ranking Republican Sen. Jeff Sessions offered a devastating opening statement documenting Kagan's extreme liberalism. He ran through her college thesis that worried about socialism's demise, and her master's thesis praising the activism of the Earl Warren court. He noted how she worked for the Michael Dukakis for President campaign, and took a leave as a law school professor to help Joe Biden get liberal Justice Ruth Ginsburg confirmed. □

## Obama's Coffee House Loophole

Michelle Malkin

President Obama is finally uniting the left and the right — in joint opposition to his administration's chronic sabotage of transparency and public disclosure rules. It won't be long before liberals disillusioned by Dear Leader's reveal-as-we-say-not-as-we-conceal policies link arms with me and join in on my 2-year-old chant: Obama lied, transparency died.

Watchdog groups and Republicans on Capitol Hill want an investigation into hundreds of White House meetings with corporate lobbyists at D.C. coffee houses. K Street influence peddlers told The New York Times last week that they've met routinely with Team Obama officials over the past 18 months to discuss policy matters — at Starbucks, Caribou Coffee, even on a side lawn — with the express purpose of circumventing the public's right to know.

The Coffee House Ruse comes on top of the latest confession of White House non-disclosure from ex-Big Labor heavy Patrick Gaspard, Obama's chief domestic policy adviser, who failed to report a \$40,000 pension payment from his old employer, the Service Employees International Union in New York. If they keep this up, sunlight-avoiding Obama officials will soon be cast as the next "Twilight" vampires.

"Lobbyists say some White House officials will agree to an initial meeting with a lobbyist and his client at the White House," the Times' once-zealous champions of Obama reported, "but then plan follow-up sessions at a site not subject to the visitors' log." Said one financial lobbyist who has met more than a half-dozen times off-campus with White House officials: "I'll call and say, 'I want to talk to you about X,' and they'll say, 'Sure, let's talk at Starbucks.'"

You see: When Obama promised to "change the way Washington works," what he really meant was changing where the usual Beltway backroom wheelers and dealers do their business. And when he talked about changing the "culture" in the nation's capitol, what he really meant was just changing titles.

In addition to carving out the Coffee House loophole and using personal e-mail accounts to communicate with the influence industry, White House officials have been advising lobbyists looking for administration jobs to de-register

— shedding their K Street status — to get around Obama's vaunted lobbyist hiring ban. With more than 40 ex-lobbyists working in the administration, Obama's no-lobbyists executive order already has more holes in it than a moth-eaten crocheted sweater.

The self-puffery of the double-talker-in-chief on disclosure ethics is inversely proportional to the amount of real transparency he has delivered. In January, irked by criticism of private health care meetings with Big Labor cronies at the Oval Office, Obama lectured Americans that "it is important to know that the promises we made about increased transparency we've executed here in 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue." His legal counsel trumpeted the release of more than 25,000 White House visitor logs (many incomplete, vague and useless) as "a milestone in the president's commitment to change Washington. The president believes that this and our many other transparency initiatives promote accountability and keep American democracy vital." While Obama's cabinet engaged in the same old precedented meetings with lobbyists, his propagandists patted themselves on the back for providing unprecedented access:

"We are excited about the visitor records policy not only because we are breaking new ground for this administration but also because we are establishing a new standard for all future administrations. We know of no comparable initiative in the history of the White House."

Puff, puff, puff.

The Obama administration's incomparable hype and hypocrisy have at last proved too much for good-government liberals. Washington-based Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) has asked the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to investigate and hold hearings on the Coffee House loophole. CREW head Melanie Sloan lambasted the Democratic White House: "This is what all the administration's anti-lobbyist rhetoric gets you — less transparency. Rather than being open and clear about who is influencing White House policy, the White House is trying to hide who it's really talking to. Even worse, the public is being suckered with lofty rhetoric about the evils of the same lobbyists White House officials are meeting with." □



# Fortalecido huracán Alex se acerca a costas México

PLAYA BAGDAD, México (Reuters) - El huracán Alex alcanzó la categoría 2 el miércoles en aguas del Golfo de México mientras se acercaba a la costa noroeste mexicana, donde se espera que golpee a la medianoche o en las primeras horas del jueves.

Alex, que se convirtió el martes en huracán categoría 1 por la fuerza de sus vientos, se encontraba a las 2300 GMT a 90 kilómetros al noreste de La Pesca, en el estado mexicano de Tamaulipas, y a 170 kilómetros al sur de Brownsville, Texas, dijo el Centro Nacional de Huracanes (CNH) de Estados Unidos.

El ciclón -con vientos máximos sostenidos cercanos a 155 kilómetros por hora- había aumentado su velocidad de desplazamiento a 19 kilómetros por hora con dirección oeste.

“Seesperaqueestemovimiento en general continúe hasta que toque tierra en el noreste de México en algunas horas”, dijo el CNH en un boletín.

En Tamaulipas, cuya costa



**Imagen de archivo de palmeras abatidas por un fuerte viento, en una calle costera en Chetumal. Jun 26 2010. La tormenta Alex se convirtió el martes en un huracán de Categoría 1 en el Golfo de México, pero se movía al norte de las plataformas de petróleo mexicanas y al suroeste de los campos petroleros estadounidenses, reduciendo las inquietudes de que interrumpa la producción. REUTERS/Gerardo Garcia/ARCHIVO**

ya era azotada por fuertes lluvias y vientos, autoridades de Protección Civil dijeron que estaban alerta y que la población se preparaba para la llegada del meteoro.

“Tenemos lluvias y vientos (...) se espera que sea más

fuerte la intensidad de lo que se esperaba”, dijo a Reuters una portavoz de la unidad de Protección Civil en la capital estatal, Ciudad Victoria, donde cuatro albergues estaban abiertos pero aún no se había desalojado a residentes de áreas de riesgo.

En Playa Bagdad, en la región costera, marinos llamaban a las puertas de las casas de pescadores ofreciendo llevarlos a refugios ubicados en la cercana ciudad de Matamoros, según un testigo de Reuters. Algunos se negaron a salir por temor a

que robaran sus pertenencias.

## MEXICO REABRE PUERTOS

En Estados Unidos, instalaciones en la región interrumpieron un 26.3 por ciento de la producción de petróleo y un 14.4 por ciento la de gas natural debido a la proximidad del huracán.

En tanto, México reabrió el miércoles sus puertos petroleros Dos Bocas y Cayo Arcas, en el Golfo de México, que estaban cerrados desde el domingo, tras el paso de Alex.

El puerto de Coatzacoalcos, también en el Golfo de México, permaneció abierto.

A través de esos tres puertos, México embarca el 97 por ciento del petróleo que exporta, principalmente a Estados Unidos.

A su paso por Centroamérica, Alex dejó al menos 12 muertos en El Salvador y Guatemala. Alex también provocó fuertes lluvias en el sureste de México, en ciudades como Campeche y el balneario caribeño de Cancún, sin que se registraran grandes daños. □

## Familia de periodista peruana pide ayuda

LIMA (AP) - La madre y hermana de la periodista peruana Vicky Peláez, arrestada en Nueva York como presunta espía de Rusia, llegaron el miércoles desde su natal Cusco a la capital para pedir el apoyo de la cancillería y facilidades para viajar a Estados Unidos.

Angélica Ocampo y Elvira Peláez acudieron el miércoles por la tarde a la sede de la cancillería, donde se entrevistaron con el Director General de Derechos de Peruanos en el Exterior Marco Núñez Melgar. El canciller José Antonio García Belaunde se encontraba fuera de Lima en un viaje privado, según la cancillería.

Antes las mujeres aseguraron a los medios la inocencia de Peláez, de 55 años, quien fue acusada junto con su esposo, el uruguayo nacionalizado peruano Juan Lázaro, y otras ocho personas de pertenecer a una red de agentes secretos de Rusia. La pareja fue capturada el domingo último.

Elvira Peláez dijo en rueda de prensa que acudieron con su madre a “pedir al canciller, en primer lugar, que garantice a través de la cancillería el debido proceso, y en segundo lugar, queremos pedir al canciller porque la visa de mi madre ya se ha vencido...que nos facilite el viaje a Nueva York”. □

## Embajador preocupado por oposición de Venezuela a EEUU

CARACAS (AP) - El embajador saliente de Estados Unidos, Patrick Duddy, expresó el miércoles preocupación por la oposición que mantiene el gobierno venezolano hacia Washington, y un eventual debilitamiento de los intensos lazos comerciales entre ambos países.

“Me preocupa que el gobierno de Venezuela haya decidido definir su agenda económica, política y social en términos de una oposición a los Estados Unidos, en vez de buscar una senda positiva de cooperación”, dijo Duddy en un discurso, expresando inquietud por el estado de las relaciones entre ambos países.

Resaltó que pese a las divergencias, Estados Unidos continua siendo “el principal socio comercial” de Venezuela, y las compañías estadounidenses “han mantenido su compromiso” con el país y su población.

“Estos sí son tiempos difíciles para la relación

bilateral. Me preocupa que nuestros lazos comerciales de largos años se debiliten”, afirmó Duddy durante un acto en la sede diplomática. La Casa Blanca anunció a inicios de semana la postulación del diplomático Larry Palmer como nuevo embajador para Venezuela.

Duddy, quien retornó a Caracas a mediados del año pasado luego de ser expulsado en septiembre del 2008, dijo que respeta el deseo del gobierno venezolano de diversificar sus mercados petroleros, pero sostuvo que “es difícil entender cómo el pueblo de Venezuela y los de la región van a beneficiarse de una política que, de manera explícita, quiera limitar las relaciones de largos años con Estados Unidos”.

Venezuela exporta al mercado estadounidense cerca de un millón de barriles diarios de petróleo, que representan la mitad de la producción del país. □



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